



STRENGTHENING DELAWARE

YMCA OF DELAWARE 100 West 10th Street | Suite 1100 | Wilmington, Delaware 19801 | ymcade.org

WINTER 2017

SERVING DELAWARE BY ADVANCING OUR MISSION OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Dear Friends,

It's cold outside, but things are heating up at the Y. We recently kicked off our Annual Campaign to raise \$1.7 million dollars to support our friends and neighbors. In addition to the Annual Campaign, there have been great projects

happening across the Association and some of the milestones are highlighted in this newsletter.

Within the last two months (and under a very tight deadline) we opened a new branch, the Middletown Family YMCA. This facility will establish a presence in the Middletown, Odessa and Townsend communities and provide services to individuals and families that live, work and play there. If you have not visited our new Middletown location, I highly encourage you to stop by so you can experience its friendly and unique atmosphere.

Additionally, during a press conference that was held in November, we announced our building expansion plans

for the Brandywine YMCA in North Wilmington. This 16,000 square foot vertical expansion is slated to begin this spring and will create room for youth wellness, group exercise classes and adaptive fitness equipment as well as community meeting space.

We are looking forward to the months ahead as we continue our important work in supporting school success through partnerships with the Board of Education as well as the Summer Learning Collaborative and Reading is Fundamental programs. Our Y kids are involved in many learning opportunities and continue to thrive and do better in school.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the YMCA of Delaware.

Yours in service,

Deborah Bagatta-Bowles, Chief Executive Officer
dbowles@ymcade.org | 302.571.6907



MIDDLETOWN FAMILY YMCA NOW OPEN!

MIDDLETOWN FAMILY YMCA OPENS ITS DOORS

During the fall, the YMCA of Delaware officially announced plans to expand services in Middletown, Delaware. Roughly six weeks later, the doors on the new 6,400 square foot facility, located at 404 North Cass Street, were open and it has been busy with new staff, families and individuals enjoying the Y. To date, this Y has over 1,800 members.

“We’re very excited to establish a permanent presence in Middletown with plans to build a large full-service YMCA in the years to come,” said Deborah Bagatta-Bowles, Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of Delaware. “Our hope is to be a positive force in Middletown, bring our young people and adults into the Y, and cater our services to the needs of the community. We are so pleased to finally be moving forward with our long term vision for Middletown and the surrounding areas, and

we plan to keep pace with the growth in this area,” she added.

The interior design and layout is very warm and creates an atmosphere for people to not only exercise, but to relax and build community. In addition to a state-of-the-art fitness center, a movement studio for group exercise classes, and a Kids Zone, this location also features an antique membership desk, decorative accent wallpaper, exposed wood details, lounge chairs and rustic café style tables in a seating area that resembles a warm family room.

Currently, the Middletown Family Y is firming up plans to give members access to a local pool and further develop youth programs including summer camp, teen leadership activities and more.



David Halley, Center Director, being interviewed by 6ABC TV



Member Services Desk and our friendly staff



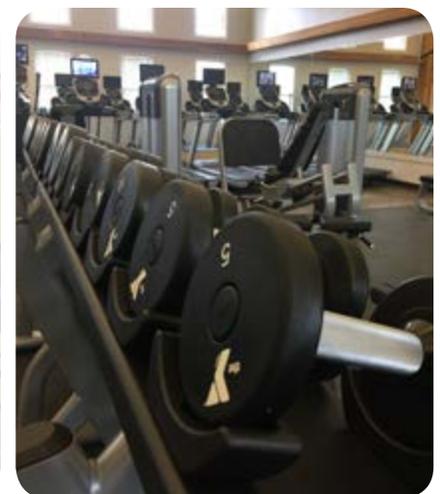
Community gathering space



Beautiful Movement Studio with abundant natural light



Kids Zone with lots of educational toys and books



Fitness Center with certified trainers to guide you

BRANDYWINE YMCA ANNOUNCES BUILDING EXPANSION PLANS



Proposed Rendering of the Brandywine Y



Proposed Rendering of New Brandywine Y Fitness Center



Deborah Bagatta-Bowles, CEO, being interviewed by WDEL radio station



Jim Kelly, COO of YMCA of Delaware, speaking to audience during the press conference

In November, the YMCA of Delaware hosted a press conference to announce a building expansion project for its Brandywine YMCA located at 3 Mount Lebanon Road in Wilmington, Delaware.

“The Brandywine Y has been a part of our local community since 1965,” said Jim Ryan, Executive Director of the Brandywine YMCA. “We’ve done a great job serving local families and individuals, but through member feedback, surveys and focus groups, we realize that if we want to continue our strong community impact for the next 50 or more years, we need to expand our services, resources and space.”

The project is slated to begin in the spring of 2017. Some of the highlights of the building expansion will include:

- 16,000 square feet added to the second floor
- A youth wellness center and dedicated space for teen programs
- New and renovated classrooms for preschool which will allow us to serve more children
- Community education rooms for the YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program classes and meetings
- Adaptive fitness equipment throughout the fitness center and pool areas for members with limited mobility
- Larger fitness center, a second fitness studio for group exercise classes and programs for all ages

This \$5 million dollar expansion is being funded through community support. The YMCA has launched the “Eyes on the Future” fundraising campaign to raise the last \$1.5 million dollars needed to complete the project.

For additional information about this campaign or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Matt Clements, Director of Philanthropy, at (302) 571-6962 or Mcllements@ymcade.org.

2017 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING

The YMCA of Delaware recently launched its annual campaign by hosting an association-wide kickoff event at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts. The purpose of the Annual Campaign is to help ensure people throughout the state of Delaware have access to the YMCA, its community programs and valuable resources.

This year, the Y of Delaware hopes to raise \$1.7 million dollars. Funds raised will be used to provide financial assistance for families, senior citizens and individuals to ease the cost of memberships, camps, child care and other programs. Nearly 200 people attended the football themed event and Governor John Carney served as the keynote.

In 2016, the Y of Delaware awarded nearly **\$5.2 million dollars in financial assistance** to its members and program participants. Additionally, last year charitable gifts from Y donors made it possible to **teach free beginner swim lessons to 2,485 children** from low to moderate income households. The Y also **empowered over 30,000 youth** through enrichment programs including Youth In Government, Black Achievers, Teen Leaders Clubs, Counselors In Training and summer leadership opportunities. To learn more about how you can support the Y's cause, contact Matt Clements at mclements@ymcade.org or call (302) 571-6962.



Governor Carney speaking at the Annual Campaign Kickoff event



Governor Carney mingling with attendees



Governor Carney with YMCA Youth In Government students



Henry Osvaldo Sedano sharing highlights of his experiences at Camp Tockwogh



YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

In November, the YMCA of Delaware's Youth in Government (YIG) program hosted its first annual fall middle school conference for 6th – 8th graders. The conference was held at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware, and current YIG high school delegates and alumni were responsible for organizing the event. Over the course of the day, the conference gave younger students the opportunity to learn about the legislative process, proper debate techniques, parliamentary procedure, and the core values of the YMCA.

In total, 63 middle school participants and 16 high school volunteers from across the state worked together to develop solutions to problems they see impacting communities in Delaware. Students debated issues such as ending poverty, protecting natural resources, access to early education, and addressing the heroin epidemic.

28TH ANNUAL BLACK ACHIEVERS CELEBRATION

The 28th Annual Black Achievers Dinner and Awards Ceremony was held in October at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. This year's event recognized 17 volunteers who work year-round mentoring student achievers one-on-one and in small group settings. Black Achievers is a national signature program of Y-USA with the goal of encouraging young people to pursue higher education degrees and professional career paths. Currently, the YMCA of Delaware has a 95 percent college enrollment success rate.

Dr. Steve Perry was this year's keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. Dr. Perry has become a national icon in the education revolution, a change agent who is tireless in his fight for providing equal and competitive opportunities for children who otherwise would not have a voice. Among his many accomplishments, he is the Education Contributor for CNN and MSNBC, he is featured in CNN's Black in America series, and is an Essence Magazine columnist. Additionally, he is a best-selling author, a host for TVOne's "Save My Son", and the Founder and Head of Schools for the Capital Preparatory Schools.

Before the event, Dr. Perry spent part of his afternoon at the Walnut Street Y speaking to students in the Y's after-school program about success and overcoming difficulties.

"Dr. Perry's mission of providing high quality education with college bound opportunities for children is very much in accord with the goal of the Black Achievers Program," said Claire Carey, Director of Black Achievers and Teen Programs at the YMCA of Delaware's Walnut Street branch.



Dr. Steve Perry addressing the audience at the Black Achievers Celebration.

SENATOR TOM CARPER VISITS THE Y

During the fall, Senator Tom Carper made a few special visits to different YMCA branches throughout the Association.



DOVER YMCA

In October, Senator Carper spent some time with staff and members at the Dover Y. In addition to going on a tour to see the latest renovations at the branch, he spent time learning about the recently installed adaptive fitness equipment as well as the good work being done by the lifeguards and the coaches in the Diabetes Prevention Program.

CENTRAL YMCA

On Veteran's Day, Senator Carper stopped by the Central YMCA to have lunch with some of the residents who are also Veterans. The Central Y is the largest housing provider for Veterans in the state of Delaware.

"Veterans deserve not only our appreciation for their service, but also our commitment to taking care of them long after they return to civilian life."

- Senator Carper



“We live in a society focused so heavily on success that we forget to give back, but **THERE IS NO SUCCESS WITHOUT VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP.**”

– Miles Evans

Miles Evans is a Junior at St. Georges Technical High School and says the YMCA Black Achievers program changed his life. During seventh grade, his father proposed the idea of participating in the Black Achievers program, which runs year-round, every Saturday. “To be quite honest, it did not sound very appealing to wake up every Saturday morning when I could have been sleeping in, but I took my chances and attended with my older brother, Malcolm. That was one of the best decisions I have ever made,” said Miles.

Being a part of the program introduced Miles to a wide range of resources and a community of supportive mentors. Because of Black Achievers, Miles has grown to be a more successful

leader, mentor, student, friend, and son. What keeps him coming back every Saturday are his fellow students and the Y’s commitment to community volunteerism. As the President of Black Achievers, Miles stresses to his peers that success should not be based on your race, gender, background, or surroundings, but rather the effort you put into helping others and making a difference. “We live in a society focused so heavily on success that we forget to give back, but there is no success without volunteer leadership. If you cannot give back to the community that supports you through your trials and tribulations, you have not reached success.”



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