

# NO PLACE



*Like This Place*



Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA  
**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

## BRANCH LOCATIONS & CHILD CARE FACILITIES

The Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA includes four traditional YMCA's in Luzerne County: the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA, the Greater Pittston Area YMCA, the Hazleton YMCA and the Freeland YMCA. The association also includes YMCA Camp Kresge, Casterline Early Learning Center, Mericle Early Learning Center and Bear Creek Community Charter School. With the exception of Camp Kresge, the GWVA YMCA offers childcare at each site listed below – [scan the QR code to learn more](#).



### Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA

40 West Northampton St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

570-370-5011

Doug Miller, Executive Director

The Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA is a community hub focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It offers a variety of programs like aquatics, childcare, well-being activities and youth & family programs. Annual events include Bernie's Run, the Kentucky Derby Party, Healthy Senior Day and the John A. McCole & Connie Daighdray Charity Golf Classic.



### Pittston YMCA

10 North Main Street  
Pittston, PA 18640

570-655-2255

Josh Lukaszewski, Exe. Director

The Greater Pittston YMCA is a community-focused organization offering a variety of programs and services aimed at promoting healthy living, youth development and social responsibility. The YMCA has a pool, gymnasium, fitness center, aerobics studio, and sauna/steam rooms. It has a highly rated preschool program, before and after school programs, and other childcare services.



### Hazleton YMCA

75 South Church Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201

570-823-2191

Lissette Dishmey, Exe. Director

The Hazleton YMCA, Mericle Family Center, has reopened after undergoing renovations and joining the GWVA YMCA. The facility includes an early childhood education center – the Pasco L. Schiavone Early Learning Center and will feature a pool and gymnasium in 2020. The Hazleton YMCA has a long history, with roots tracing back to a sewing circle in 1906 and the Hazleton YMCA, which incorporated in 1914.



### Freeland YMCA

600 Front Street  
Freeland, PA 18224

570-636-3640

Jim Laputka, Executive Director

The Freeland YMCA has been a community cornerstone since 1899, offering preschool care and summer camps, a gymnasium, fitness/weight rooms, group exercise classes and youth leagues. Modern programs include: LEGO Robotics, a multi-sport programming, yoga classes and the annual Run for the Children event. Active older and CDP programming coming soon.



### Casterline ELC

315 Wyoming Ave.  
Forty Fort, PA 18704

570-931-3791

Crystal Borsigas, Child Care Director  
The Casterline Early Learning Center is a child care facility named after Dr. Charlotte L. Casterline, who donated her former medical office building for the center's use. The center provides care for toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children. Casterline ELC provides affordable, quality child care and early education programs, focused on introductory curriculum for toddlers, kindergarten preparation for preschoolers and social-emotional development for all.



### YMCA Camp Kresge

382 Camp Kresge Lane  
White Haven, PA 18661

570-642-2267

Steph Bewley, Executive Director  
Located on the beautiful shores of Beaver Lake, Camp Kresge's 1,300 acre property provides the perfect natural environment for camp programs. Camp Kresge offers a wide variety of programs to meet your recreational needs throughout the year: Day & Overnight Summer Camps, Children's Camping Weekends, Blue Sky Outdoor Education Field Trips, Parent/Child Weekends, Family Camps, Rentals and Retreats.



### Mericle ELC

1122 Oak Street  
Pittston, PA 18640

570-443-2267

Trudi Dorbad, Child Care Director  
The Mericle Family Center for Early Childhood Education offers affordable and quality programs for toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. Curriculum includes handwriting, kindergarten prep and social/emotional development. The center features a state-of-the-art facility with 15 classrooms and an outdoor play area used to prepare children for school through play-based learning with a focus on literacy, math and science.



### Bear Creek

30 Charter School Way  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

570-990-3226

Jamie Burns, Child Care Director  
Bear Creek Community Charter School offers affordable and quality programs for preschoolers and school-age children. A play-based, child-centered creative curriculum that supports whole-child development through hands-on, developmentally appropriate learning with a school partnership that incorporates environmental education.

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Reflecting back on the past year, 2025 will be remembered as year of change for the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA. Each branch grew in its own way while the association added Jeremy Popiel as Chief Operating Officer and Lucy Musto as Chief Development Officer. Those two positions are vital to the continued growth of our association.

Wilkes-Barre adapted its locker room to accommodate the faster-paced, in-and-out member via the universal locker room. The new design is a way to maximize space while retaining individual privacy. Both the men's and women's locker rooms were upgraded with the addition of a red-light therapy sauna, new showers, new sinks, larger lockers and more!

Pittston upgraded the locker room as well, grew its membership base and welcomed a new director in Josh Lukaszewski. The building physically connected to the Y was purchased through a Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) grant with the help of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The expansion will support the development of the Pittston YMCA Early Childcare Education Center, a project that will expand access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education while revitalizing a central downtown property. Once complete, the project will create new classrooms serving 40 additional infants and toddlers ages six weeks to three years, helping address long-standing childcare shortages for families in the Pittston area.

The Hazleton YMCA reopened early in 2025, welcoming the Pasco L. Schiavo Early Learning Center. The child care center is the first step in bringing a full-functioning YMCA back to Hazleton, mostly though the generous contributions of Rob and Kim Mericle, whose generosity and vision made the project possible. Located at 75 South Church Street, the Hazleton Y has been renamed in honor of the family – the Mericle Family Center YMCA. The Hazleton location has undergone extensive renovations thanks to the Mericle family, who contributed more than \$5 million in capital and program funding for the project. The second phase of construction is set to wrap up in 2026 with the full YMCA opening to the public.

The Freeland YMCA became the final branch of the Y in Luzerne County to join the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA in November. The heart of Freeland since 1899, the building will continue to give Freeland children a place to play, learn and grow. Freeland director, Jim Laputka, helped secure grant funding for a new roof and remodeled exterior as well as a remodeling of the interior of the gym. A STEM education classroom was recently created for children to learn coding, web design and 3D printing skills. A preschool classroom was also added to bring accessible and affordable childcare to the borough.

Through all this change, the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA has built a solid foundation upon which we can strengthen communities across Luzerne County in 2026 and beyond.



Jim Thomas, CEO



Cheryl Connolly, Board President

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA is a community organization for the benefit of all. We are committed to nurturing the potential of children, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. The YMCA has a 175-year foundation of moving communities forward worldwide, just as we have done here in Luzerne County since May 8, 1863. Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice by providing programs that help the community build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

## GWVA ASSOCIATION STAFF

Jim Thomas, CEO

Nahla Samaoui, CFO

Jeremy Popiel, COO

Luciana Musto, CDO

Jennifer Brennan

VP Child Care Education and Child Care Services

Ken Dewey

Facilities Manager

Jamie Dudick

Executive Affairs & Development

Allyse Filipowich

Youth and Family Coordinator

Dominic Griffith

Data Analyst

Kathleen Herron

Finance Assistant

Donna Hudak

HR Manager

Kasey Lukaszewski

Chronic Disease Prevention Director

Trisch Madaya

Director of Child Care Finances

Jason Minnick

Marketing Director

Sam Reinhardt

Aquatic Program Coordinator

Skylar Santacroce

Wellness Director

Sarah Tucker

Membership Billing

Megan Welch

Senior Program Director

## YMCA CAMP KRESGE

Steph Bewley

Executive Branch Director

Nick Pincin

Sr. Programs & Facilities Director

Erin Patrick

Overnight Camp & Conference Director

Mike Kirkpatrick

Outdoor Education Director

Brendan Jungermann

Food Services Director

## WILKES-BARRE FAMILY YMCA STAFF

Doug Miller

Executive Branch Director

John Nolan

Membership Engagement Coordinator

Erin Dietrich

Swim Team Coach

Ashlee Baker

Child Care Director

Becky Golightly

Asst. Child Care Director

Kelly Maass

SACC Coordinator

David Sauer

Aquatics Coordinator

Michelle Schasberger

Healthier Communities Coordinator

## GREATER PITTSSTON YMCA STAFF

Joshua Lukaszewski

Executive Branch Director

Alexandra Dewey

Child Care Director

Alexandra Fahey

Assistant Child Care Director

## HAZLETON – MERICLE FAMILY CENTER YMCA

Lissette Dishmey

Executive Branch Director

Nathally Tiburcio

Child Care Director

Anastasia Negrete

Assistant Child Care Director

## FREELAND YMCA STAFF

Jim Laputka

Executive Branch Director

Greta Zoshak

Executive Assistant

## CHARLOTTE L. CASTERLINE ELC

Crystal Boisseau

Child Care Director

## MERICLE FAMILY CENTER

Trudi Dorbad

Child Care Director

Lauren Webb

Assistant Child Care Director

## BEAR CREEK

Jamie Burns, Child Care Director

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Jamie Dudick lives in Plains with her husband, Jason, and their three children, Sarah, Sammie, and Bryce. Deeply rooted in family and community, Jamie brings heart, dedication, and balance to everything she does—qualities that are evident in her daily work at the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA.

A valued employee of the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA team since 2013, Jamie is one of those people you can always count on—no matter the task, challenge, or moment. She consistently steps up without hesitation, filling in wherever she is needed and often going far beyond her official responsibilities to ensure the success of the organization and its mission.

Throughout her tenure, Jamie has provided support across nearly every area of the YMCA. From managing executive assistant responsibilities to offering hands-on assistance with fundraising, donor engagement, and event logistics, her contributions are both wide-ranging and essential. She has played a key role in donor follow-ups and countless behind-the-scenes administrative details — work that often goes unnoticed, yet is critical to the Y's success.

What truly sets Jamie apart is not just the volume of work she takes on, but the way she approaches it. She brings a sense of calm, care, and positivity to every task. Jamie has a unique ability to recognize gaps and quietly fill them—not for recognition, but out of genuine care for her colleagues, the organization, and the community it serves. Her adaptability, strong work ethic, and “whatever-it-takes” attitude have helped keep the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA moving forward during some of its most challenging times.

Jamie's dedication, selflessness, and unwavering commitment embody the very spirit of the YMCA. It is with great pride and sincere appreciation that the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA recognizes Jamie Dudick as Employee of the Year, honoring the extraordinary impact she makes each and every day.

# 2025 EVENTS

The Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA held its 161st Annual Meeting at Fox Hill Country Club on Feb. 19, honoring Kevin O'Boyle (departing BOD President), Cheryl Connolly (incoming BOD President), Stephanie Bewley & Nick Pincin (five-year service award) and Linda Reilly (Legacy Award).



The Greater Pittston YMCA raised \$11,834 in donations by 187 riders during its annual Spin-a-Thon event on March 8.

On April 12, 94 runners helped raise \$4,053 for YMCA Camp Kresge Scholarships.





**Healthy Kids Day** was held at the Pittston and Wilkes-Barre YMCAs on April 26, reaching more than 50 children in a national effort to promote active kids.

The annual Kentucky Derby Gala drew 235 attendees who raised \$132k to benefit child care programs.



Bernie's Run drew an all-time record, 852 runners to raise \$16,223 for the YMCA.

# 2025 EVENTS

The 2025 edition of the John A. McCole & Connie Umphred Golf Classic raised \$127,394 to send deserving youth to summer camp at YMCA Camp Kresge.



Healthy Senior Day & Aquatics open House drew more than 25 participants who explored YMCA Programs in Pittston.

Sadly, beloved Heritage Society member F. Charles Petrillo, Esq. passed away this year. He will forever be part of the heritage society, which gathered on September 25 this year at the Rooftop at Rikasa in Pittston.



**The Pittston YMCA's Annual Awards Dinner drew 185 attendees and raised \$56,425 for the YMCA on October 16.**



**The inaugural Turkey Trot drew more than 50 community members for a festive reminder to stay active during the holidays on November 22.**

**The Freeland YMCA held its Music for the Y event on November 28. The event brought together more than 250 community members and raised \$25,280.**



# YMCA CAMP KRESGE

Located 15 miles South of Wilkes-Barre in White Haven, Camp Kresge offers children and families of all ages a traditional camp experience in a remote setting. Complete with lake swimming, hiking trails, lodging and a ropes course – Camp Kresge is the perfect getaway for summer camp or a family camping weekend.



- Summer Day Camp
- Summer Overnight Camp
- Teen Leadership Programs
- Children's Camping Weekends
- Family Events
- Facility Rentals
- Retreats & Team Building
- Blue Sky Outdoor Education



**In 2025, Camp Kresge...**

**Welcomed**

**776**

**Campers**

**Awarded**

**332**

**Scholarships**

**Partners Include:**

YMCA of the USA, GWVA YMCA Annual Support Campaign, The John A. McCole & Connie Umphred Charity Golf Classic donors. The Max & Lorraine Foundation, Mericle Commercial Real Estate, Various YMCA Memorial Scholarship & Family Funds and others

# YMCA CAMP KRESGE



**Provided more than 46,000 meals to YMCA Camp Kresge participants and the Hazleton YMCA Child Care Program.**



## **Homecoming**

Hosted its first YMCA Camp Kresge alumni dinner, welcoming campers and staff from years past to reconnect with nature.



## **Leaders-in-Training**

Leadership, hands-on learning, and personal development was the focus for the 16 participants that attended in 2025.



## **Outdoor Education**

Provided 4,537 participants with a Blue Sky experience, including Nature & STEM lessons and team buildings activities.



## **Second Annual 5K Trail Run & One Mile Walk**

This year, 94 runners helped raise \$4,053 for YMCA Camp Kresge Scholarships.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS TOTAL: \$69,374**

**Day Camp** – Provided scholarships for 257 weeks of camp.

**Overnight Camp** – Provided scholarships for 72 weeks of camp.

**Weekend Retreats** – Provided scholarships for three families to attend.



Without the financial assistance provided by the Y, my children would not be able to attend camp. Knowing that they have somewhere safe and fun to go during the summer is so helpful for our family. Weeks after summer has ended, they still talk about all the exciting things they did and all the friends they made at camp.

**- April B., Camp Parent**

# PROJECT: BLUE SKY OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Blue Sky Outdoor Education is an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) program, part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Blue Sky Field Trips during the Spring and Fall seasons include up to three classes chosen by their teachers to support the concepts that students are learning about in their classrooms. Participants receive a full day of activities, as well as a healthy hot lunch and snack. We've found that schools, teachers, and students appreciate the time the children get to spend outdoors learning in Blue Sky's non-traditional environment.



"Our third-grade class had an amazing field trip to Camp Kresge, where students participated in engaging and educational science classes that were both informative and interactive. The hands-on activities allowed the students to explore the outdoors, deepening their understanding of nature. The staff at Camp Kresge were incredibly supportive, creating a positive and welcoming environment for our students. Thanks to the generous funding from Blue Sky, this incredible experience was made possible, giving students in a low-income school district the opportunity to explore and learn in ways that otherwise would not have been possible. Lunch and snacks were provided, making the day even more enjoyable. It was truly a memorable and enriching experience for all involved! Thank you for this wonderful experience."

-The Students and Staff at Whittier Elementary



**1,716  
SPRING STUDENTS**

**1,761  
SUMMER STUDENTS**

**1,060  
FALL STUDENTS**



Blue Sky Outdoor Education is made possible with support from our community partners: Forty Fort Lions Club, Northwest Bank, Memco Realty, Mericle Commercial Real Estate, PPL Electric Utilities, Pride Mobility, Straub Metal, UGI Utilities, Waste Management, Wayne Bank, Weis Markets and others.

# HAZLETON YMCA



The Hazleton YMCA officially became part of the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA on January 31, 2025, when community members gathered to celebrate the opening of a child care facility – the Pasco L. Schiavo Early Learning Center. The classrooms were the first phase of reopening the Hazleton Y, which was renamed the Mericle Family Center due to the work of the Mericle family in bringing a YMCA back to Hazleton after the branch was forced to close due to financial difficulties in 2019.



Phase two of the construction project is set to finish in April 2026 with the full YMCA reopening in the summer.



# FREELAND YMCA



The Freeland Y officially became part of the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA on November 3 – a move “made for the greater good... to keep a Y in Freeland.”



Launched a state-licensed Keystone Star Level 1 Childcare Program for 10 children, which is currently at capacity.



Completed \$400,000 roof replacement, gym renovation and \$140,000 front façade repairs of deteriorating masonry



Successfully launched a STEM education program, offering 3D printing, web design, coding and LEGO Robotics Summer Program that served 13 children at no cost to their families



Program participation up 38% in 2025 (483) compared to 2024 (304)



Chronic Disease Prevention programs – Fit & Strong and Matter of Balance set to be offered for the first time in 2026

Freeland Y Black Marlins Swim Team sent 39 swimmers to the district meet with 16 qualifying for the state championships



# CHILD CARE SERVICES

The YMCA is the largest provider of child care services in the nation. Locally, our GWVA YMCA has had a presence in the community for over 160 years. As part of Pennsylvania's Keystone Stars program, the Y provides the very best in early learning and youth development services including: PreSchool, Pre-K Counts, Day Care, A.F.T.E.R. & Summer O.F.F.



“

Finding the YMCA, specifically for childcare, was a huge weight off our shoulders. We wanted our children to experience a high-quality program with qualified staff without bankrupting our wallets. Enrolling at the Y, we got that and so much more!

Being part of the Y is truly like being part of a family. All of the staff are invested in your children and their happiness – from the person at the front desk to their classroom teacher.

The curriculum made sure my daughter was ready for kindergarten. The weekly swim lessons (at no extra cost!!) gave me peace of mind that my children are confident and safe in the water. There are so many opportunities to get involved with the community as well! ”

– Kaitlyn



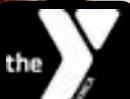
**932**  
**CHILDREN**  
**SERVED**

**712**  
**FINANCIAL**  
**AID RECIPIENTS**

Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA PreSchool is an approved Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization (PKSO) program, part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, and is made possible in part thanks to our community partners: Colours, INC, Community Bank NA, The Dahan/Yurko Group, Fidelity Bank, First Keystone Community Bank, FNCB Bank, Luzerne Bank, Helping Hands Society of Hazleton Area, Clear Spring Property and Casualty Group, M&T Bank, Peoples Security Bank and Trust, Penn Millers Insurance Company, PNC Bank NA, Quality Served Fast, Stroudsburg Bus Terminal, Rinehimer Bus Lines, Ruth K. Smith Century 21 Hourigan Group, United Concordia Insurance, USHydrations, Weis Markets, White Transit School Busses, and others.

# POWER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Power Scholars Academy is a six week full-day program targeting summer learning loss prevention. During the summer of 2025, 151 youth were served at Bear Creek Community Charter School, helping them get ahead on math and reading skills.



Power Scholars Academy students receive a free breakfast, lunch, and 90 minutes of math/literacy in the morning and afternoon enrichment. Children enjoyed STEM and coding instruction as well as outdoor activities. This year, PSA visited the Lehigh Valley Zoo (pictures below).



**151**  
**CHILDREN  
SERVED**

**+1**  
**MONTH WORTH OF  
LITERACY PER CHILD**

**+2.5**  
**MONTHS WORTH OF  
MATH PER CHILD**

“ My client has been attending the Power Scholars program for the last three summers. Through this program, he gained crucial help with his math, reading and social skills. He accessed enrichment classes like yoga, coding, S.T.E.M., and environmental science, which he wouldn't normally experience. He is usually home or with grandparents in the summer.

He previously struggled to retain academic information over the summer. The six-week Power Scholar program helped mitigate that.

The field trips have been a bonus for him. He's visited new places. Socially, he now opens up to peers and has made new friends. He's participated in singing, dancing and circus acts – tasks in which he previously wasn't interested. **Power Scholars is a beneficial program for all children.** It is my hope it will continue.”

– Christa M  
Behavioral Health Technician

#### **Donors and Partners Include:**

PCCD Boost Funding  
PPL Foundation  
Bear Creek Community Charter School  
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund  
United Way of Wyoming Valley

# FEEDING PROGRAMS



## CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Served 115,204 meals and 79,849 snacks to hungry children



## FOOD & FUN AT THE PARK

Served 14,129 lunches and 9,769 snacks at eight locations



## POWER SCHOLARS

Children were served 4,877 meals



# FOOD DISTRIBUTION

## THE SCALE AND REACH TO MEET THOSE IN NEED, WHERE THEY ARE.

EIGHT CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF WILKES-BARRE, PITTSSTON, MOUNTAINTOP, BEAR CREEK, FORTY FORT, HAZLETON AND FREELAND.

1. **WILKES-BARRE FAMILY YMCA**  
40 N. Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
2. **CAMP KRESGE**  
387 Camp Kresge Lane, White Haven, PA 18645
3. **GREATER PITTSSTON YMCA**  
10 N Main Street, Pittston, PA 18640
4. **MERCILE FAMILY CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
1623 Oak Street, Pittston, Tazewell, PA 18640
5. **CASTERLING CHILD CARE CENTER**  
915 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA 18704
6. **BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
EARLY LEARNING CENTER  
30 Charter School Way, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
7. **HAZLETON YMCA**  
705 S Church St., Hazleton, PA 18201
8. **FREELAND YMCA**  
606 Front St., Freehand, PA 18224



Allocated 30,000+ lbs of food  
in partnership with CEO Weinberg Food Bank

Partnered to distribute 2,500+ Fork Over Love take home meals at three different locations, 300 monthly

Provided 115,204 child and adult care feeding program meals and 79,849 snacks to child care and before/afterschool youth

Partners include: Careerlink/ResCare, City of Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority, the Borough of Duryea, City of Pittston, White Haven Community Library, Bear Creek Community Charter School, YMCA Camp Kresge, and White Haven Borough.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## SENIOR TECH HELP

Senior Tech Help expanded in 2025 and is now offered at the Wilkes-Barre and Pittston Y's. Staff and volunteers provided 117 hours of one-on-one tech help, serving 64 unique seniors. Seniors set up new phones, learned about AI, and transitioned to apple watches. The King's College Computer and Information Services Club donated over 50 hours of service in October and November. The program is supported by Comcast.

## FOOD & FUN AT THE PARK SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

This program brings together municipalities and community organizations to provide free meals, snacks and summer supervision at locations throughout Luzerne County. In 2025, the program provided lunches at five locations in Wilkes-Barre (Miner Park, Hollenback Park, the YMCA, Mineral Springs Village and Boulevard Townhomes. The Y partnered with the respective boroughs to provide supervision, lunches and snacks at Charles Street Playground and Healey Playground in Duryea.

## LEGO ROBOTICS

The YMCA installed a LEGO Robotics Program in 2024, in just over a year it has built a team of 29 participants in Wilkes-Barre. The program in Pittston drew 59 participants over the summer while working with the Summer OFF children. Another 13 participants adopted the program in Freeland.

## REACHING BEYOND LIMITS

Reaching Beyond Limits is a workforce development program for special needs teens and young adults to learn job skills and build social skills within the workforce. Nine RBL helpers, assisted by their job coaches, fed students in the Food & Fun program this summer. RBL youth assisted with bi-weekly food distributions for families. When all sites were in operation, RBL at the YMCA Food & Fun program made, assembled and packed over 250 lunches and 250 snacks daily. Careerlink/Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board also supported the program by providing eight park site attendants that worked with the Y's park site supervisors.

## FRIDAY FRIENDS

Supported by the Gregory Center and the Earthly Angel Autism Fund, the Pittston Y offers a free swimming and pizza program on the fourth Friday of each month. This program provides neurodivergent youth and their families opportunities to connect and belong.



# SPECIAL NEEDS SWIM

**the YMCA**  
**ADAPTIVE SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**NATHAN WILLIAMS**

Nathan began his swimming journey at the YMCA with a medical need for the water. With the support of his family and the YMCA, Nathan has made great progress in the water. He has learned how to blow bubbles and float. He has also demonstrated improvement in every stroke.

Nathan continues to grow each week, and we are so happy to see him progress. He is a great example for our families. We are so grateful to have the city help Nathan and can't wait to see how much more he will achieve in our swim program. The YMCA has made Nathan an excellent candidate for Swimmer of the Month.

Great job Nathan, keep working hard!



**the YMCA**  
**ADAPTIVE SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**AMELIA**

Amelia came into lessons with no fear of the water, just a point that the YMCA's swimmer certificate for self in the pool was the only thing that would get her to try. She has worked hard to develop her skills. She has also demonstrated enthusiasm for every stroke.

Amelia continues to grow with no fear of the water, just a point that the YMCA's swimmer certificate for self in the pool was the only thing that would get her to try. She has worked hard to develop her skills. She has also demonstrated enthusiasm for every stroke.

It's been such a big everything for confidence a growth for her. Each week she gets a little closer.

Keep up the great work, Amelia!



**The GWVA YMCA partners with Supporting Autistic Families Everywhere (SAFE) and the City of Wilkes-Barre Health Department to provide one-on-one swim lessons to youth with autism as well as other youth with special health care needs. This program is vital to the community as the number one cause of death for youth with autism is drowning.**

**In addition, the Pittston Y offers free lessons for more than 20 Gregory Center families as the mission of the Y's swim program is to provide water safety training for all. To help promote the progress of these brave swimmers, the YMCA staff launched the Adaptive Swimmer of the Month program in 2025. Here are a few of their stories!**

**the YMCA**  
**ADAPTIVE SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**EZIO FERRUZZA**

Ezio began swim lessons with the YMCA at just 18 months old. He didn't enjoy the water at all. He would cry and refuse getting in. It was a challenge just to get through the lessons, even though Ezio is a determined swimmer. His teacher, the YMCA's swimming staff, has been patient. The water has now become his happy place. He uses every skill. Seeing his joy and progress has been such a rewarding journey. This recognition is for Ezio's hard work and determination. He is a determined swimmer who will succeed, and the YMCA is proud to support him.



**the YMCA**  
**ADAPTIVE SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**JAYCE PRICE**

Jayce has made incredible progress in his swim lessons. When we first started a couple of lessons ago, he was very nervous and had only the most basic skills. Now, just a few months later, Jayce is not only swimming all of the strokes, but is also swimming with confidence and ease. Jayce is a determined swimmer, who is always pushing himself to improve.

Week by week, the confidence has grown. Now, Jayce is swimming with a smile and fun, pushing his body in the water and truly enjoying every lesson. Jayce's improvement has been outstanding. It's been such a joy to see the progress. Congratulations, Jayce, keep up the great work!



# AQUATICS



Whether at the Wilkes-Barre pool or the Pittston pool, the YMCA is the place to start, continue or grow your aquatics fitness routine. With a focus on safety around the water for all ages, families in need can participate in aquatics thanks to the YMCA scholarship program. Year round activities include: Lap Swimming, Open Family Swimming, Swim Team, Parent/Child Swim classes, Youth Swimming Lessons, Certification Courses, Aquatic Exercise, Birthday Parties and more!

## IMPACT



### Y USA SWIM LESSON GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS

**50** youth in Wilkes-Barre

**50** youth in Pittston Community

**12** youth joined via the Step into Swim Grant in Pittston

### 400+ THIRD GRADERS

Received **FREE SWIM LESSONS** through partnership with Wilkes-Barre Area School District, The City of Wilkes-Barre Child & Youth Special Health Care Needs Swim Grant

### SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH SERVED

**S.A.F.E. – 25 DESERVING YOUTH** received Private **SWIM LESSONS**

**A-TEAM** – Supported by the **AUTISM FORUM** at the Luzerne Foundation, served on average **30** individuals at monthly socialization events

### STAFF EARNED CERTIFICATIONS FOR WORKING WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN

Sam Reinhardt achieved the highest level of training with AngelFish

# WILKES-BARRE YMCA SWIM TEAM



The Wilkes-Barre YMCA Swim Team is coached by Head Coach Erin Dietrich, who took over the squad in fall 2024. With just a few returning members from the 2023 team and a small group of young swimmers, Dietrich focused on instilling leadership, fun, and team dynamics into the group. The coach's tactics have begun to pay off in 2025 as the team has grown to over 30 new members in just over a year. The team competes locally in scrimmage meets and open meets - training 3-4 times a week to maximize potential.

For more information on the program, please email [Erin.Dietrich@wvymca.org](mailto:Erin.Dietrich@wvymca.org).

# HEALTHY LIVING

At the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA, a supportive community is a big part of our members' wellness success. Every age and activity level is full of people looking to live healthier, form friendships and inspire each other. You can exercise your heart in more ways than one at any of the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA locations:

- Free Senior Exercise for those age 60+
- Personal & Small Group Training
- Phase Three Cardiac Care Wellness Training & Support
- Free orientation to exercising
- Vast Wellness Centers
- Chronic Disease Prevention



Once you are over 60, you realize more and more how quickly time passes. But that did not diminish my amazement of how we have gone through 12 months in our Diabetes Prevention Program. It's natural for a closeness to develop. I began to see Elena, our instructor, as one of my daughters. I would pray she got home safely. I would ask God to bless her and her husband with a marriage filled with love. All the things that I do for my daughters.

Months ago, I embraced the concept of LIFESTYLE CHANGE. Elena has presented the material in such a way that seeing the steps and actions covered in the material became who I was and not what I did. This class has changed my life. She was able to help us in mind, body and spirit. We learned. We covered the physical things that are in line with our lifestyle change and the feelings or emotional hindrances that arise to distract us from reaching our goal. This class has enabled me to know more.

Now that I know, I can do. //

- Harlan Tabron Sr.

# YMCA CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAMS



The Diabetes Prevention Program is a one-year, lifestyle modification program that assists adults at-risk for type two diabetes. Thanks to the American Lung Association the Y was able to run **four** sessions in 2025, helping more than **27** people reduce their risk for type two diabetes. **Participants lost an average of 8.2 lbs.**



The Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program was utilized 3,079 times in Pittston and 3,433 times in Wilkes-Barre for a total of **6,512 individual sessions in 2025.**



Co-Pilot Senior Memberships are provided to individuals 60+ and funded by the Area Agency for Aging. The Y offers 10 classes in Wilkes-Barre and nine classes in Pittston weekly. Strong and Balanced, GeriFit and the Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program serve 100+ each month. **The Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA added more than 70 new Co-Pilot Senior Memberships in 2025.**



Many older adults develop a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. A Matter of Balance is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. **The YMCA was able to help 35 seniors improve their mobility through this program this year.**

## IN 2025



Strong and Balanced served 889 participants

GeriFit served 3,914 participants – 538 WB & 3,376 Pittston

The Y hosted 10 Senior Socialization events, drawing 75 participants

Fit & Strong Arthritis Exercise Program served 25 community members

The Cardiac Care program helped six people recover from cardiac events

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program – introduced in Sept., drew 136 in its first month



The YMCA Staff was able to add a new staff member to assist with evidence-based exercise and community nutrition while existing staff obtained new certifications to host additional programming in AFAP/AFEP classes. Combining resources between the GWVA YMCA association and the Freeland Y allowed two team members to gain the certifications necessary to run evidence-based exercise classes in Freeland in 2026!

**The Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA provided  
OVER 10,802  
Sessions for Seniors in 2025**

# WELLNESS



4,200+ fitness classes were conducted in 2025, engaging and supporting hundreds within our community



600+ personal training, group training, and specialized training sessions were completed in 2025



A boxing program was introduced this year, building steady growth as an intergenerational program by serving beginner and advanced groups



The 42nd Annual Bernie's Run drew a new participation record - 852 runners, an increase of 101 from the previous record



Spin-A-Thon 2025 drew over 180 registered riders for six consecutive classes led by five local cycling instructors



Our six-week and eight-week Transformation Challenges helped members reshape their health through personalized fitness plans and hands-on nutrition coaching. These challenges bring together fitness, nutrition, and community support, helping participants achieve real, lasting progress.



Thanks to the success of Spin-A-Thon 2025 and Bernie's Run, we were able to assist families in need of scholarships and upgrade our facilities with new premium treadmills featuring touch-screen displays.



# WELLNESS STAFF



**Angel Perez**

National Academy of Sports Medicine  
Certified Personal Trainer  
Strength Training,  
Certified Nutrition Coach



**Skylar Santacroce**

National Academy of Sports Medicine  
Certified Personal Trainer & USA Boxing  
Strength Training, Boxing,  
Circuit, High-Intensity Interval Training



**Craig Wilkinson**

Int. Sports Sciences Association  
Certified Personal Trainer  
Athletic Performance, Core Strength,  
Stability & Strength Training



**Jenine Finarelli**

National Academy of Sports Medicine  
Certified Personal Trainer  
Women's Fitness, Strength Training,  
Body Transformation

# MEMBERSHIP

A YMCA membership is about becoming part of a healthy community. By surrounding yourself with good people, you can get help meeting your fitness goals while also supporting good in our community. Your membership supports programs that make a huge difference, such as:

- **Child Care:** Providing reliable, nurturing environments for children while parents are at work or attending other responsibilities
- **Before and After School Programs:** Providing a safe, structured space for kids to engage in educational activities, make new friends, and receive homework help
- **Swim Lessons:** Teaching essential water safety and swimming skills to children of all ages, fostering confidence and promoting lifelong health and wellness
- **Basketball Leagues:** Encouraging teamwork, physical activity, and sportsmanship through youth basketball leagues that cater to a range of skill levels
- **Power Scholars Academy:** An academic and enrichment program designed to boost educational performance and prevent summer learning loss
- **Pre-K Counts:** High-quality early education to prepare children for kindergarten
- **Addressing Food Insecurity:** Ensuring children and families in need have access to nutritious meals through programs designed to combat hunger in the community

From youth fitness classes to arts and culture activities, the YMCA strives to create a well-rounded experience supporting physical, emotional and intellectual development.





#### **Membership Types:**

- Active Older Adult (62+)
- Active Older Family
- Adult (23-61)
- College
- Family Membership
- Small Family
- Teen (14-18)
- Young Adult (19-22)
- Youth (0-13)

#### **Special Membership Offerings:**

- Veteran Adult
- Veteran Family

#### **Health Program Memberships:**

- Active & Fit / Silver & Fit
- Geisinger Gold
- Health Partners Plans
- Renew Active / One Pass / Aaptiv Access
- Tivity - Silver Sneakers / Prime ; Prime Private Brand



### **MEMBERS SERVED IN 2025**

Wilkes-Barre: 6,077

Pittston: 2,509

Freeland: 278

GWVA Association: 8,864

# Greater Wyoming Valley Area Heritage Society

Jay Amory\*  
Rita & Richard Arnold  
Megan & James Bobeck  
Elma & George Brandt \* †  
Kathleen Button\*  
Wendy & Terrance Winston Casey\*  
Charlotte L. Casterline M.D.  
Kate Churnetski  
Cheryl Connolly  
John A. Consalvo M.D.\*  
G. Guthrie Conyngham \* †  
Jacqueline L. Mosher & Kevin Coween\*  
Eileen Davis  
Karen D. & Dale A. Duncan\*  
Tim Evans\*  
Margaret M. Fiore\*  
Jean & Hal Flack\*  
Andrea & James Harris, Esquire\*  
Dottie & Frank M. Henry \* †  
Scott Henry \* †  
Susan Dantona Jolley  
William Joyce Sr.  
Theresa & Clayton Karambelas\*  
Marlene & James Kerns  
Peter Kizis\*  
Midge Kolojejchick\*  
Ann Marie Krzezinski  
Tish & Michael Last  
Tom Lawson\*  
Paul Lumia\*  
Cathy & Tom Maheady  
Mary McDonough  
Robert Mericle\*  
Catherine Mihalick, Esquire  
Michele Millington  
Steve Morenko †  
John E. Morris †  
Joyce L. & Daniel R. Nulton\*  
Mary Agnes & Joseph O'Connor  
James Oliveri \* †  
Ruth Oliveri \* †  
Pamela & Raymond B. Ostroski, Esquire\*  
Frank Paczewski



Shep Pawling  
Patrice & Joseph Persico, Esquire\*  
F. Charles Petrillo, Esquire †  
Elizabeth & Robert A. Piccone  
Bernard Popson\*  
George Ralston \* †  
Helen Ralston\*  
John Riccetti  
Joanne & William A. Runner, Jr.  
Corny Salvaterra\*  
Darcie Schaffer  
Connie & Durelle Scott, M.D.\*  
Wilbur W. Scott †  
George Sordoni \* †  
Marie & James Thomas\*  
Mary Turner Tranguch  
Charles Umphred  
John P. Vetashick\*  
Timothy Yurek

\* The charter members have established this club as a means of preserving the heritage of the YMCA for future generations.

# 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

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George Hayden  
Michael Hirthler  
Stephen Hudacek  
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Michael Last  
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Mayor Jeff Cusat  
Mayor Michael Lombardo

## Senior Trustee

Joseph O'Hara  
Shep Pawling

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Megan Kennedy, Vice President

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Sister Miriam Stadulis

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Kate Button  
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Catherine McGovern, Esq.  
Joshua Richie  
Linda Rogers  
David Seamon  
Timothy Sisock  
Frank Walton Jr.

# 2025 IMPACT

The Freeland YMCA joined the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA in November 2025, giving the association eight locations across Luzerne County.



**2K+** LEARNED LIFE-SAVING SKILLS IN AQUATICS PROGRAMS



**70+** SENIORS PARTICIPATED IN CO-PILOT PROGRAM MONTHLY



**932** CHILDREN RECEIVED QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE



**332** CHILDREN ATTENDED SUMMER CAMP VIA SCHOLARSHIPS



**30,000+** LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE IN NEED



**\$2.39M** IN SCHOLARSHIPS/SUBSIDIES TO THE COMMUNITY

# COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

The Pittston YMCA's named Rosella Fedor its volunteer of the Year.



Jane and Rocky Sabatelle were named the Community Leaders of the Year.

Trina Moss earned the "Spirit of the Community Award."



# 2025 AWARDS

Trisch Madaya, Director of Child Care Finances, won United Way of Wyoming Valley Possibility Award



Sam Reinhardt, Aquatic Program Coordinator, won Progressive Pathfinder at the Angels of Autism Gala Awards

Robert Collado, Hazleton YMCA Advisory Board, won 2025 Young Entrepreneur of the Year through Hazleton Chamber of Commerce



# COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

**Lyla Rehill & Franklin Garcia  
earned the Youth Leadership  
Award from the Pittston  
YMCA**



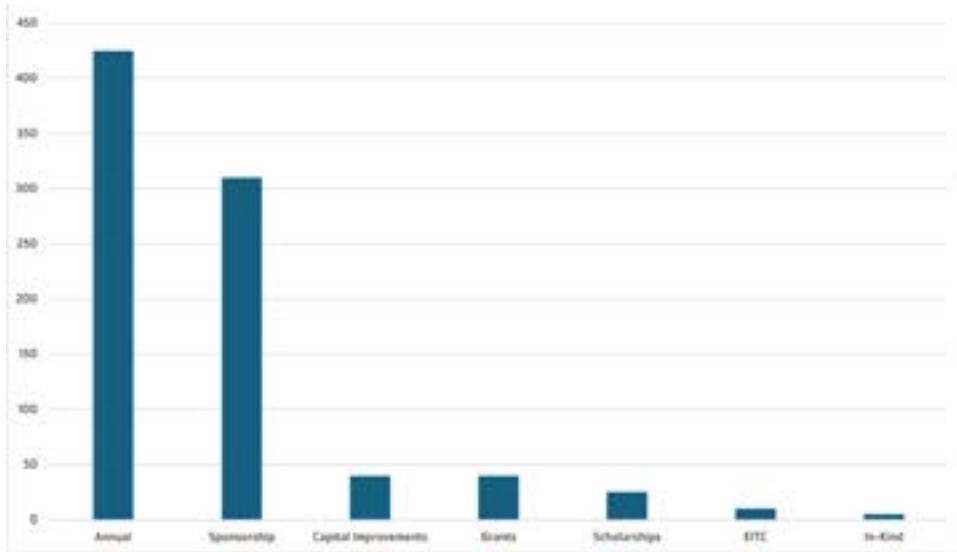
**The Gregory Center was  
named the recipient of the  
2025 Corporate Distinction  
Award from the Pittston  
YMCA**

**Joyce Insurance earned the  
Outstanding Corporation Award  
at this year's AFP National  
Philanthropy Day Celebration. The  
Joyce Family have been strong  
supporters of both the Pittston  
YMCA and Association for many  
years! We are thrilled to be able to  
celebrate this accomplishment.**

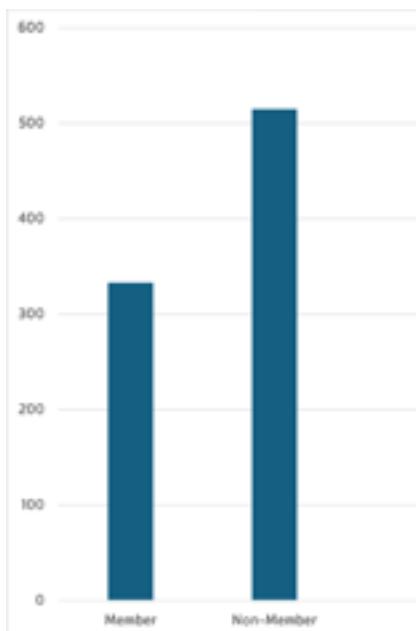


# DONOR REPORT

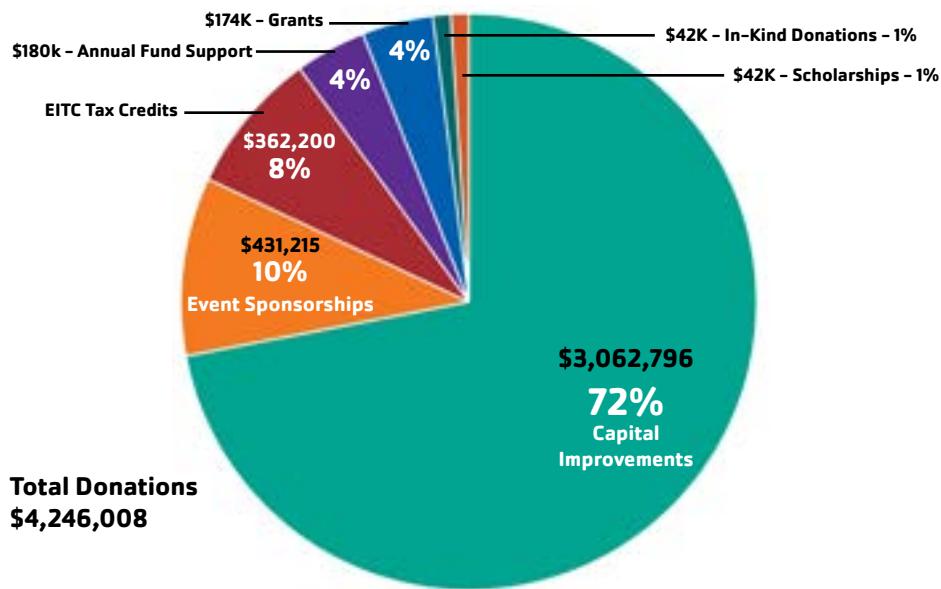
## Donations by Gift Type



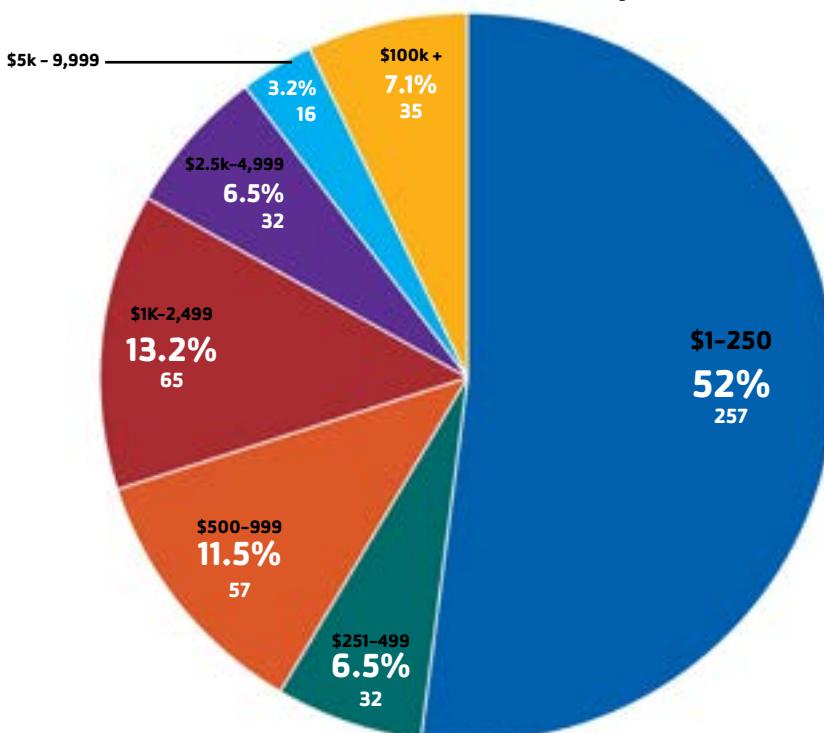
## Donors by Membership Status



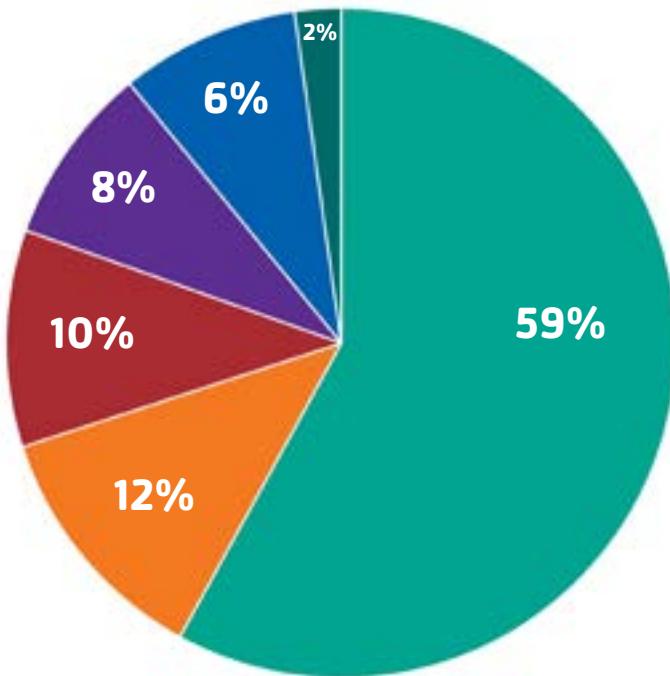
## Donations by Type



## Number of Donations by Gift Size



# 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



## REVENUE

**Program Income: \$5,559,982 – 59%**

**Annual Support & Special Events: \$1,149,996 – 12%**

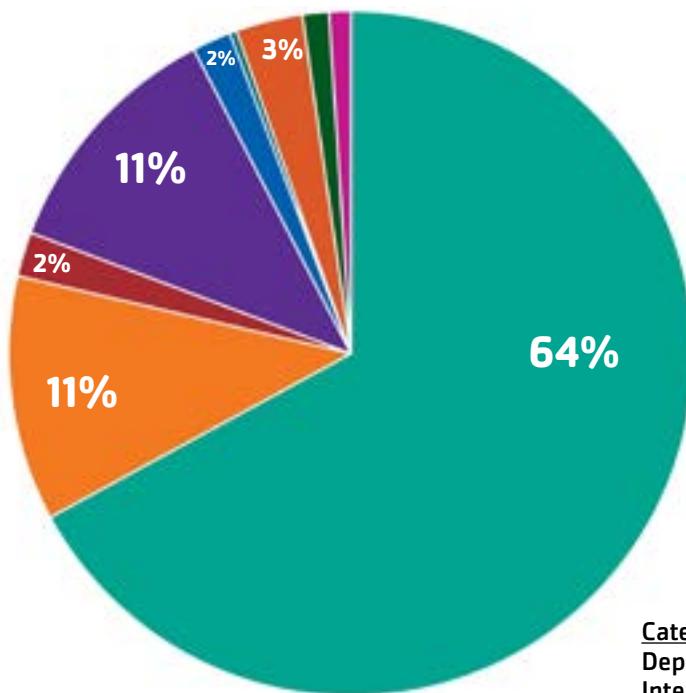
**Grants – \$1,003,305 – 10%**

**Membership Income: \$829,101 – 8%**

**Rental Income: \$631,683 – 6%**

**Other Income: \$214,975 – 2%**

**Total : \$9,388,042**



Financing Expenses	
Category	Amount
Depreciation	\$281,287
Interest Expense	\$90,684

## EXPENSES

Salaries, Benefits & Taxes: \$5,930,507 – 64%

Occupancy & Insurance: \$1,060,496 – 11%

Non-Capitalized Repairs: \$185,164 – 2%

Program Expenses: \$1,031,208 – 11%

Transportation: \$162,634 – 2%

Printing and Promotion: \$28,285 – 0.3%

Dues and Fees: \$280,412 – 3%

Special Event Expenses: \$109,296 – 1%

Other Expenses: \$91,366 – 0.9%

Total Expenses: \$9,214,361

**Net: \$173,681**

\*The financial figures presented in this report are approximate and reflect the current estimates as of the report date. Final year-end adjustments have not yet been completed, but the numbers provided are expected to be very close to the final results.

## **YMCA PROGRAMS SUPPORTED IN PART BY:**

### **MEMORIAL & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

George Brandt Memorial Scholarship Fund

Al Finarelli Memorial Scholarship Fund

Corine C. Sheng & Major Peter L. Casterline Scholarship Fund

Andrea & Jim Harris Scholarship Fund

Tom Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund

Joyce Family Scholarship Fund

Max & Lorraine Memorial Scholarship Fund

Colin R. MacLean Memorial Scholarship Fund

Maslow Family Scholarship Fund

Gary A. Michak Memorial Scholarship Fund

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