

# For the well-being of all

## Strengthening community is at the core of the Merrimack Valley YMCA

Merrimack Valley YMCA — first established in 1880, with its headquarters located in Lawrence — today is one of the oldest YMCAs in the country.

Over its 136 years, the Merrimack Valley YMCA has evolved and expanded into an association with a \$17 million operating budget, a staff of 650-plus employees, and more than 700 volunteers.

The regional YMCA boasts top-notch facilities in Andover/North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen and operates two full-service fitness centers, one at Pfizer and one at Philips, both in Andover; two overnight camps on Lake Winnepesaukee's Bear Island in New Hampshire — Camp Lawrence for boys and Camp Nokomis for girls — as well as Camp Otter, a day camp and travel camp on Captain's Pond in Salem, New Hampshire.

Each of these branches and camps serve the needs of distinct and unique communities, making the Merrimack Valley YMCA an organization rich in cultural, social and economic diversity.

At the Y, strengthening community is the overriding cause. Every day, the organization works side-by-side with its neighbors to make sure that everyone — regardless of age, income or background — has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

Through quality programs, services, volunteers and staff, the Merrimack Valley YMCA is consistently working to remain focused and committed to its mission of helping make healthier lives achievable for everyone, while also strengthening the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.



**The Andover/North Andover YMCA, at left, recently underwent a \$23 million renovation, which included the creation of the new Jane Orr Cronin multi-purpose family swimming and lap pool as seen from the second floor of the state-of-the-art Wellness Center, above.**

### **In the area of Youth Development:**

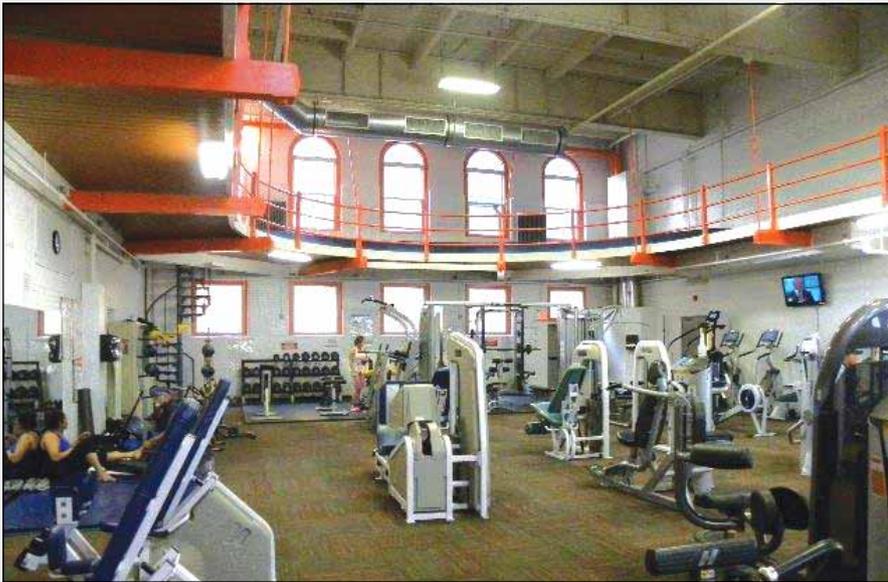
The YMCA's Child Care Programs serve children ages 15 months to 13 years old. The YMCA has made a commitment to the programs' quality and safety by meeting and surpassing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Licensing Standards as well as by working to achieve national accreditation at each of our centers. Our child-care programs also accept Child Care Circuit vouchers, and financial assistance is also available for those who qualify.

Here at the YMCA, we continue to expand educational programs aimed at addressing STEM, School Readiness, Summer Learning Loss, and Achievement Gaps.

Since 2013, at our Lawrence YMCA we

have implemented School Day Enrichment programming, working with 13 schools and giving more than 2,200 Lawrence Public School students access every week to swimming lessons, physical education, music education, and Active Science opportunities. Invented in Lawrence with our partners at Merrimack College in North Andover, Active Science seamlessly blends physical activity, learning and interactive technology as an innovative obesity prevention strategy.

In these ways, the YMCA has evolved beyond its traditional scope to become a platform for education revitalization. Our Lawrence Public School Enrichment partnership and Active Science Initiative highlight our focus on education and entrepreneurship.



The expansive fitness room at the Lawrence YMCA. The Lawrence facility at 40 Lawrence St. is in the first phase of an extensive renovation and expansion project that will improve services for future generations.



Merrimack Valley YMCA President and CEO Gary Morelli, right, and Northern Essex Community College President and collaborative partner Lane Glenn outside the Lawrence YMCA.



An innovative Active Science initiative blends physical activity, learning and technology for students' overall health and advancement.

**In the area of Healthy Living:**

We offer a competitive variety of opportunities and activities to help members meet their wellness needs. We have the dedicated staff, programs and beautiful facilities to support success in one's pursuit of health and well-being. Our YMCAs are equipped with large state-of-the-art wellness centers, pools and a robust aquatics program for every age and ability.

**MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA**

**Headquarters**

▶ 101 Amesbury St., Fourth Floor, Lawrence, 978-725-6681

**Lawrence YMCA**

▶ 40 Lawrence St., Lawrence, 978-686-6191

**Andover/North Andover YMCA**

▶ 165 Haverhill St., Andover, 978-685-3541

**Methuen YMCA**

▶ 129 Haverhill St., Methuen, 978-683-5266

**Learn More**

▶ [mvyymca.org](http://mvyymca.org)

We have strong membership collaborations and programs with the City of Lawrence, the towns of Andover and North Andover, including each community's public schools' staff, as well as other large companies like Northern Essex Community College (where the Y serves as the health and wellness center for their students and faculty), New Balance, Pfizer, Philips and Lawrence General Hospital, just to name a few.

On the heels of the completion of a \$23 million renovation of our Andover/North Andover Y, we have begun the first phase of a renovation and expansion of our Lawrence facility, which includes a totally redesigned, repurposed and expanded facility that will improve long-term financial performance and community impact. Our partners, The

Children's Investment Fund and the Stevens Foundation, were able to provide the impetus to get the Lawrence project started.

"Through the Andover/North Andover and Lawrence YMCA remodel and renovation, we have an unprecedented opportunity to improve and expand our services and influence the health and well-being of current and future generations in the Merrimack Valley," says Gary Morelli, President and CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

**In the area of Social Responsibility:**

Membership dues support everyday operations. However, the Merrimack Valley YMCA endeavors to secure grants, conduct annual fundraising campaigns and host events necessary to sustain all the financial assistance and charitable services it offers and provide access to people of all income levels.

Inside the Lawrence YMCA, the third and fourth floors are home to the YMCA Single Residency Occupancy Program, which provides housing to formerly homeless men. The YMCA residency program is a single-room subsidy program that offers safe, affordable housing and services to 73 qualified single men, ages 18 to 80.

We provide more than \$4 million each year in essential services and financial assistance to make available enhanced public access to fitness, health, educational enrichment and numerous other services, especially among children, the disabled, the homeless, the aging community and other at-risk populations.