



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Merrimack Valley YMCA
Advancing Cause and Community**



»»» OUR MISSION

To strengthen our communities by putting our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into action through programs and services that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

»»» OUR PROMISE OF INCLUSION

The Merrimack Valley YMCA intentionally commits to facilitating positive and lasting change with our communities. Our Y focuses on providing an environment that celebrates diversity, advances equity, and reflects inclusion for all, both inside and outside of our walls. Our Y welcomes our community to show up authentically, to speak up courageously, and to create a space for all to be, belong and become.



A letter from the CEO and CVO

For over 140 years, the Merrimack Valley YMCA has focused on strengthening the community, either by opening our doors to those in search of living healthier lives or through outreach activities that take us beyond our Y walls and into the surrounding cities and towns. We are an inclusive, nonprofit organization joined together by a shared commitment to nurture the potential of youth, promote healthy living, and foster a sense of social responsibility. Strengthening community is our cause.

The Y believes in identifying community needs – and then working toward solutions that create meaningful, lasting change. With a commitment to three pillars that contribute to our community's overall well-being – youth development, healthy living and social responsibility – the Y ensures everyone has access to the essentials needed to learn, grow and thrive.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA has been a leader in providing innovative programs that nurture the potential of people in all stages of life, promoting healthy living and giving back to our neighbors in need. From quality out-of-school programming and life-saving swim lessons to values-based youth sports and engaging healthy activities for the entire family, to making healthy food accessible through our food pantry and our mobile food markets, the Y's programs and initiatives stay true to our cause through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

The year 2022 was exciting for our Y as the community joined us further in our promise to advance our cause, further proving our organization is resilient in the face of the harsh adversity of the past few years. We are even more dedicated to meeting the emerging needs of the community. We made great strides in:

- *Fighting food insecurity*
- *Giving children a chance to reengage with other children and caring adults through summer camp and youth and teen leadership enrichment programs after the difficult times of remote learning and social isolation*
- *Providing caring and enriching childcare allowing working parents peace of mind, when they were facing more challenges than ever*
- *Continuing our focus on healthy living through membership growth and developing new programs and partnerships to promote health equity for all*
- *Expanding and operationalizing our Y's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion*
- *Investing \$2 million in facility improvements across our Y Association*

As we ventured into this changed environment post-pandemic, our strategic plan, Advancing Cause and Community, drove us to strive for bold results in strengthening our community with even more purpose. We are excited to report to you our achievements in this annual impact report.

Our plan is a partnership between our policy volunteers, staff, and community stakeholders with a goal of guiding our decision-making and providing the foundation for exceptional progress. The strategic priorities, initiatives and success measures reinforce our commitment to secure our long-term financial sustainability so that we are able to deliver programs and services that ensure children are on track for a successful future, and individuals and families are improving their health and well-being.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA remains strong and ready to respond to our community needs.

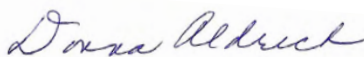
Thank you to all the volunteers, staff members and community partners who worked together to ensure that the Merrimack Valley YMCA continues to serve our community in new and innovative ways. By advancing our cause together, we advance our community. We ask you to join us as we celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future with our plan and our passion to serve.

Please take a moment to read our 2022 Annual Impact Report and discover the many ways the Merrimack Valley YMCA continues to strengthen the communities we serve. We invite you to further your connection to the Y by sharing your time, talent and treasure as a volunteer, donor, and ambassador sharing our impact with your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

We welcome you to reach out to us for a cause-driven tour, giving you an opportunity to see your YMCA in action.



Francis J. Kenneally, III
President and Chief Executive Officer

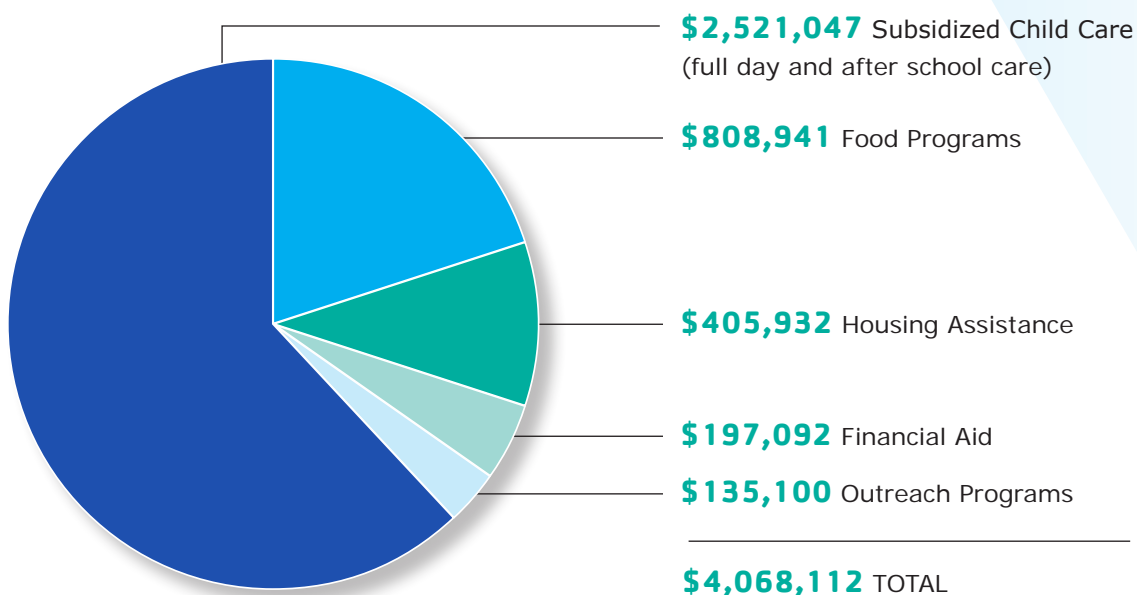


Donna Aldrich
Chief Volunteer Officer

COMMUNITY IMPACT

While we have a strategic plan for our future, who we are has not changed. Our values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, along with our promise of inclusion are absolutely core to who we are. They continue to drive our behavior as a human service organization. Our mission embraces those values and sets a purpose for our work.

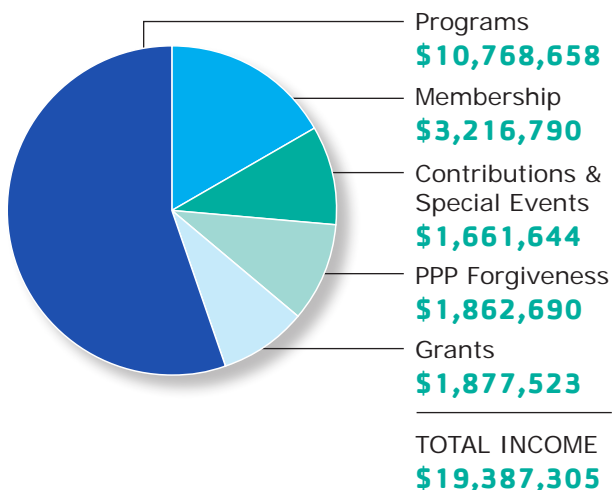
Key to this mission is our purposeful outreach to those in our community who need help to access our programs and services. In 2022, we delivered over \$4M in subsidized services, financial assistance, programs and nutrition support to children, families, adults and seniors in the Merrimack Valley.



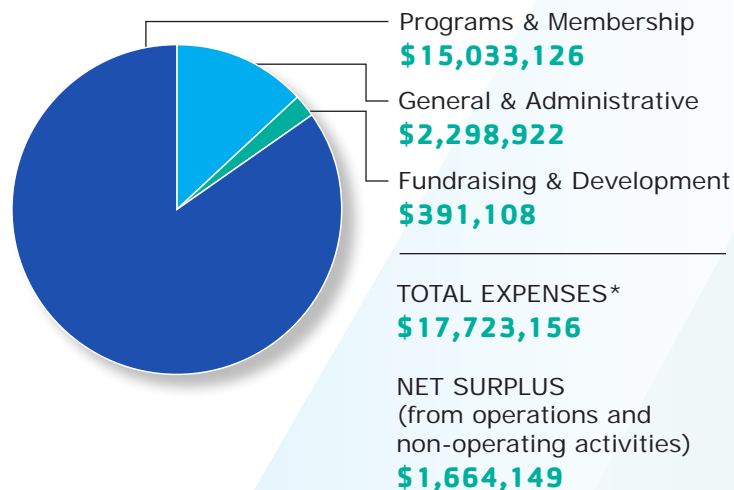
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2022

Merrimack Valley YMCA Consolidated Financial Statements*
October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

INCOME



EXPENSES



*unaudited

With members and community participants returning to avail themselves of our many programs and services, our revenue rebounded by 17%. While, still less than pre-pandemic, our future remains bright.

MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Francis J. Kenneally, III, *President & Chief Executive Officer*

Claudia Soo Hoo, *Chief Operations Officer*

Cathleen Landry, *Chief Financial Officer*

Mary Jane Dinsmore, *Chief Human Resources Officer*

Joyce Grippen, *Chief Development & Marketing Officer*

Jana DiNatale, *Executive Director, Andover/North Andover YMCA*

Kelley O'Hara, *Associate Executive Director, Andover/North Andover YMCA*

Joseph Agosto, *Executive Director, Lawrence YMCA*

Lenis Perez, *Associate Executive Director of Youth Development*

Catherine Redard, *Executive Director of Child Care*

Anne Whalen, *Executive Director, Camping Services*



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COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is proud to partner with our neighbors to strengthen our community. TOGETHER we focus our efforts on developing youth, improving healthy living for all and fostering social responsibility to create positive and lasting personal and social change – the kind of change that can only come about when we work together to invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors. Thank you to the following donors for their support of the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

YMCA PIONEER \$10,000+

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
New Balance Foundation
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
MA Department of Early Education and Care
Victor J. Mill, III
Watts Water Technologies, Inc.
Pentucket Bank
Nancy & Don Carlin
Lawrence General Hospital
John Kane Jr.
TJX Foundation, Inc.
Highland Street Foundation
City of Methuen
Amelia Peabody Foundation
Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
United Way of Mass Bay & Merrimack Valley
Arbella Insurance Foundation, Inc.
Cornelius Wood Trusts
City of Lawrence
The Stevens Foundations
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
YMCA of the USA
Essex County Community Foundation
Anonymous, in honor of Cara Green
Don & Lynne Bulens
Cummings Foundation
Enterprise Bank
Borislow Insurance Agency, Inc.

YMCA CHAMPION \$5,000+

Rosalyn K. Wood 2021 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
and Claire Wilkes
Exchange Club of Salem NH
Ethan VanderWilden, In memory of Kyle O'Grady
Frank & Amy Kenneally
Donna Aldrich
Cedar's Mediterranean Foods, Inc.
Key Polymer Holdings
William McCartney & Tish Bachman
Raytheon
USA Swimming Foundation
Cafua Management Co, LLC
Donna Luisi & John Champagne
System 4 Commercial Cleaning
The Howe Insurance Agency
Claudia Soo Hoo & Ben O'Leary

YMCA PATRON \$2,500+

John & Patricia Fouhy
Timothy & Patricia MacPhee
3M Foundation
Mike W. Murphy
Kevin St. John
Rotary Club of Greater Salem NH
Gary Eichorn
Jennifer & Michael Borislow
Joyce Grippen & Michael Needle
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Wyley Robinson
Daniel St. James
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Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence
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Rotary Club of Andover
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Peter & Diane Lafond
R.C. Lafond Insurance Agency
Comcast Business Services, Greater Boston Region
Thomas & Julie Childs
Anne & Paul Whalen
MA Office of the Attorney General



HERITAGE SOCIETY

Members of the Merrimack Valley YMCA's Heritage Society have made a direct gift to the Y's endowment fund or a provision in their will or estate plans that will ensure a strong YMCA now and for future generations.



Donna Aldrich
Carl & Mamie Berger
Elizabeth & Ralph Covino
Jane & Eric Dinsmore
George & Carolyn Fantini
Marilyn Fitzgerald
John & Patricia Fouhy
Joyce Grippen
Victor J. Mill, III
Frank & Amy Kenneally
Mark & Megan Kristiansen
David Louis & Lori Howe
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William McCartney & Tish Bachmann
Robert & Karol Needham
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Robert & Joanne Reeves
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George & Priscilla Cunningham
Stephen & Elizabeth Gruenberg
Phyllis Hamblet
James Hamblet
Alan & Deb Hope
Stephen & Lisa Ives
Deborah Parker
Clifford & Jane Howe
Jeffrey Leeds

**If you have questions about any of our donor categories,
please contact Joyce Grippen, CDMO at 978-651-3411**



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

Over 50,000 people were served through membership, programs and services

1,700 kids participated in our resident and day camps

650 children thrived in our early education and licensed after-school programs

745,000 pounds of food was distributed through our food pantry, mobile food market and Y on the Fly program

1,800 people participated in swim lessons

75 men received shelter and support services through our Lawrence Housing Program

2022 was the first full year of implementation of our three-year Advancing Cause and Community Strategic Plan with our organizational priorities of sustaining our cause, being the organization of choice, strengthening our brand identity, and deepening our Y's impact and expanding our reach.

In 2022, we continued our partnership with Greater Lawrence Family Health Center by offering free COVID-19 vaccine clinics at our Lawrence Branch.

In February, we started our mobile food pantry at the Robb Senior Center in Andover. Each month our Y food truck staff distribute groceries at the center for anyone in need. These groceries are collected through food drives held in our community throughout the year.

On March 5, our Y hosted the 15th Annual Kimball Classic Basketball Jamboree. To celebrate the end of our youth basketball season, 500 children from all three of our branch programs and their families participated in tournament games, enjoyed food, contests, and a photo booth. The highlight of the day was when Walter Kimball presented the Sportsmanship Awards to twelve of our players.





On Saturday April 30, our Y hosted our most successful Healthy Kid's Day Event to date. Healthy Kid's Day is a national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids and families. For over 30 years, YMCAs and their communities have hosted free community events aimed to inspire kids and families to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the year. At the Merrimack Valley YMCA, we had record attendance numbers as our families participated in events in both Andover and Lawrence branches. Activities included exercise and sports classes, program demonstrations, healthy food, and a community health fair.

In June we hosted our first CORE 4 Teen Leadership Summit since 2019. This collaborative program had been postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The summit brings together teens from Andover, North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, and is a collaboration between the Merrimack Valley YMCA, North Andover Youth and Recreation Services, and the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. During this three-day program, teen leaders come together to participate in team-building activities, attend workshops, listen to guest speakers and discuss issues that are important to them. This year's event took place at YMCA Camp Lawrence on Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith, NH.

In July, at our Merrimack Valley YMCA resident camps, we re-launched our 50-foot passenger boat, The Bear II. Our main transportation vessel spent the winter in dry dock as we completed a \$750,000 refurbishing project. YMCA Camp Lawrence for boys and Camp Nokomis for girls are located on Bear Island in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee, so The Bear is the lifeline for campers in their travels to and from camp.



In July, with a generous donation from Pentucket Bank, we initiated our Y on the Fly Program. This free program sends our mobile food truck to deliver food and activities to youth in neighborhoods throughout the Merrimack Valley, who are unable to access YMCA programs and services. This "Y without walls" experience focuses on education, physical activity, and enrichment activities designed to encourage learning, inspire imagination and provide a nutritious meal.

In August, the Methuen Branch opened a new outdoor playground and renovated outdoor basketball court. This play area was designed by our early childhood teachers and parents of children in the program, and is also open to the public on weekends. We are grateful to the New Balance Foundation for their funding of this important project.

From September 9-18, 2022, our Y hosted Welcome Week. This YMCA of the USA program celebrates the growing movement of communities who fully embrace new immigrants and their contributions to the social fabric of our country. We joined Ys across the country, hosting in-person and virtual events to help immigrant and U.S. born neighbors connect and celebrate what unites us as a community. Activities included: educational presentations, arts and cultural celebrations and presentations from our community collaborators. During this week, we also honored local businesses that are owned and operated by immigrant families.





DEAR CAMP OTTER,

Thank you for helping us from Bellesini Academy go to Camp Otter this summer! This was my first experience being at Camp Otter and I enjoyed it a lot.

I liked all the activities at Camp Otter, including high ropes, archery, arts and crafts, boating, swimming, game center and gaga. Boating was one of my favorite activities that I liked. It gave me a chance to learn how to paddle with the paddleboards and how to navigate the boat to get onto the shore and out. The counselors at Camp Otter are very nice and friendly and they made me feel welcome at camp. The activities at Camp Otter were great and were all very enjoyable to me.

At Camp Otter, I learned about teamwork and the outdoors. I will always remember the nice counselors, the fun activities, and the amazing friends met at Camp Otter. Thank you for making it possible for me to have a great camp experience. I enjoyed my time at Camp Otter and I cannot wait until next year!

Sincerely,
Elibett

MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA CHILD CARE: helping families to stay healthy and together.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA has seven childcare sites: after school and preschool at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, Lawrence YMCA, and Methuen YMCA, as well as a before school and after school site in Boxford. For many of the children in our care, the YMCA is the only constant in their lives. Many families in our community face difficult situations such as incarceration, homelessness, food insecurity and mental illness. We also serve kids who continue to suffer from isolation caused by COVID-19 and those who are in DCF custody for reasons outside of their control. The impact that our Y and staff have on our childcare participants and families is felt throughout our community, as we strive for individualized care to best serve the diverse needs of our youth.

At our Methuen YMCA, Jane* is in our toddler room. After a serious medical emergency that left mom in the hospital, dad turned to the Y for help both for financial assistance and the security of knowing that Jane was safe and well cared for. After Dad reached out to the Y, Jane was able to start immediately because of our financial assistance program, and Mom was able to rest and recover without having to worry about care for her daughter. "We would not be able to stay together as a family without the Methuen Y. Without the Y we would have had to send Jane away to live with extended family," said Jane's parents when asked about the impact the Y had on their family. Today mom has made a full recovery and is also referring other children to our childcare programs.

This is only one short impact story; there are hundreds of others demonstrating the necessity of our childcare programs. The Merrimack Valley YMCA is proud to be able to offer childcare services to our communities to help local children and families lead better lives.

*Name changed for privacy reasons.





REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY TO MAKE HEALTHY LIVES ACHIEVABLE FOR EVERYONE.



Y on the FLY

The Merrimack Valley YMCA continues to work towards food security for individuals and families in our communities through our programs and services. This work became even more critical over the last year with inflation and rising food costs. Our Lawrence food pantry, Methuen mobile food market, restaurant prepared meals program, and youth meals provide groceries and meals for thousands of people throughout the year. This is possible because of our donors, volunteers, community partners and staff.

In the summer of 2021, after receiving a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley YMCA purchased two food trucks to be used as mobile food pantries. With this new ability to go into our communities, eliminating the transportation barrier, we started to host food pantries in accessible locations for our neediest neighbors. We also were able to serve hot prepared meals and perishable food by utilizing the warmers and refrigeration.

During the summer of 2022, we combined our Y's strengths of program development and food distribution to create Y on the Fly. Y on the Fly integrates healthy food and exercise. Our food trucks along with staff and volunteers go out into the community to deliver hot meals and groceries, and lead healthy activities for youth, teens and families.

We began this program at four parks in Lawrence, serving youth and teens in the afternoon. Most recently, we expanded our reach and deepened our partnership with Wood Ridge in North Andover. A 230 unit, multigenerational housing development on the border of Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence, Wood Ridge is home to many youth, teens, families, and seniors. During the pandemic, this was a frequent stop as part of our North Andover prepared meals restaurant program. Each time the truck rolls up, our staff and volunteers are welcomed by many smiling faces. Distribution of meals purchased from local restaurants is normally quick. As we implemented the Y on the Fly program, our staff were able to distribute meals and offer activities utilizing Wood Ridge's field and playgrounds. Children had access to free programming that helps create healthy habits for the future. In the coming year, the Merrimack Valley Y plans to continue to host Y on Fly programming in Lawrence and at Wood Ridge, expanding these services throughout our community.



MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

360 Merrimack Street, Suite 270
Lawrence, MA 01843
978-725-6681

ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER BRANCH

165 Haverhill Street
Andover, MA 01810
978-685-3541

CAMPING SERVICES BRANCH

360 Merrimack Street, Suite 270
Lawrence, MA 01843
978-975-1330

LAWRENCE BRANCH

40 Lawrence Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
978-686-6191

METHUEN BRANCH

129 Haverhill Street
Methuen, MA 01844
978-683-5266