



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# TRANSFORMING LIVES

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,



What is community? A quick online search results in defining it many different ways. Often when I think of community, and consider what is important to a strong community, one

thought encompasses all others. Community is a group of people bound together by similar interests to meet common needs for the betterment of all.

Each day at the Y, I am moved by the dedication I see in our donors and volunteers who support the Y's cause to strengthen

the communities we serve. Through your contributions to the Y, you influence our communities by taking meaningful action and making a measurable difference to improve the lives of your neighbors.

By sharing your passion, values and inspiration, you help us to foster social, physical and mental well-being among individuals at all stages of life, which creates a stronger community.

In this issue of Transforming Lives, you will see many ways in which your generosity and spirit of volunteerism help to advance the Y's mission, specifically through our Annual

Campaign, volunteer opportunities and community benefit programs. The collective capacity for compassion among donors and volunteers inspires the work we do at the Y to deepen community impact.

We are truly grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*David M. Carcieri*

David M. Carcieri  
President/CEO



## THANKS A MILLION 2018 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MILESTONE

With tremendous gratitude for your generosity, we celebrate our 2018 Annual Campaign success. Your belief in and support of our mission helped us to surpass our fundraising goal of \$1 million, with pledges and gifts of \$1,003,526. Exceeding the goal is a milestone for Somerset County YMCA, but most important is the impact your donations will have on transforming the lives of so many.

Your generosity was complemented by the support of the Y's Board of Directors and Branch Board members, as well as our staff. In fact, 100% of our board members and full-time staff made pledges to the campaign – truly demonstrating their commitment to the Y's cause.

In 2017, we provided over \$1.3 million in direct financial assistance to local individuals and families who otherwise

could not afford vital programs and services such as child care, summer camp, swim lessons and memberships for seniors. Each year, we endeavor to raise the funds to meet the growing need in our communities and sustain our charitable promise to serve all, regardless of ability to pay.

Board of Directors Member and Volunteer Chair of the Annual Campaign, Ana Duarte-McCarthy, celebrated by saying, "I am extremely proud that with no less than four winter snow storms, 162 campaigners worked on behalf of Somerset County YMCA to bring brighter futures to even more individuals than ever before. The campaign's success is a testament to the community's unwavering dedication to the Y's cause."



Somerset County YMCA President and CEO, David Carcieri, and Chair of the Board of Directors, Mark Irwin, congratulated Ana Duarte-McCarthy, Chair of the Annual Campaign, who announced the fund raising milestone at the Y's Annual Campaign Victory Celebration held on April 11.

With your support, the Y provides local individuals and families who struggle financially, physically and emotionally with the strength and resources to break through obstacles to a brighter future. On behalf of the many individuals and families who receive financial assistance, thanks a million!

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# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Every day at the Y, we are inspired to do 'good'. As a charitable organization with a cause of strengthening the foundation of community, a spirit of generosity is core to the Y's existence. Our donors, volunteers and staff are bonded together in common purpose and passion to make a positive difference in our communities by sharing their knowledge, talents, resources and time to help others. The initiatives highlighted below demonstrate the vitality of the Y's mission at work made possible by devoted benefactors and volunteers.

## BUILDING EXCITEMENT Somerville YMCA Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday, May 2, 2018 we celebrated the completion of Somerville YMCA's renovation with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The renovation of Somerville YMCA is part of the Y's "Strong Past, Bright Future" campaign—a campaign to support reinvestment projects for all four branches of Somerset County YMCA.

The \$2.0 million investment in the nearly 60-year-old facility included renovating the wellness center to be larger and more modern, remodeling the locker rooms for improved experience and accessibility, upgrading climate control and ventilation, enhancing safety with a new sprinkler system, painting the building exterior and renovating the pool with improved efficiency.

Several community leaders and local officials attended the celebration. Senator Kip Bateman, a longtime Somerville YMCA member, remarked, "This is a great day, not only for the Y, but for Somerville and Somerset County. The Y is an integral part of our community – a safe haven with programs for everyone from toddlers to seniors. Every week, I see first-hand what a jewel we have in our community."

Thank you to our valued donors who generously supported Somerville YMCA's renovations to make the project a reality and to enhance the quality of life for residents of Somerville and Bridgewater.



Celebrating the ribbon cutting were (left to right) Dennis Sullivan, Somerville Borough Councilman; David M. Carcieri, President and CEO of Somerset County YMCA; Morgan McLachlan, member of Somerset County YMCA Board of Directors; Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman; Mark Irwin, Chair of Somerset County YMCA Board of Directors; Mike Kerwin, President and CEO of Somerset County Business Partnership; Jay Perantoni, member of Somerset County YMCA Board of Directors; and Brian Levine, Somerset County Freeholder Deputy Director.



Youth Award recipients pictured left to right are Mitali Patel, Shanaya Sood and Krishna Mody.

## PRICELESS SERVICE 2018 Volunteer Spirit Awards

During National Volunteer Month, we recognized our dedicated volunteers at the 2018 Volunteer Spirit Awards held on April 11. The event celebrated the spirit of volunteerism shared by over 900 individuals who give of themselves to benefit the Y, its members and the community. Their valuable contributions enrich lives and make it possible for the Y to offer programs and services that otherwise would not be possible.

In particular, 20 volunteers were honored for their inspirational service over the past year. Nominated for their commitment, service, creativity, cooperation and/or leadership, the volunteers help to fulfill the Y's mission of strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

### Congratulations to the 2018 Spirit Award recipients!

YOUTH	GROUP
<b>Hillsborough YMCA:</b> Hillsborough High School Interact Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristin Delcore</li> <li>Kylie Glinsky</li> <li>Alyssa Hesthag</li> <li>Hari Kumar</li> <li>Katherine McAvaddy</li> <li>Mia Sullivan</li> </ul>	<b>Somerset Hills YMCA:</b> St. Bernards Volunteer Coordinators and Tutors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elisabeth Fraser</li> <li>Cindy McWilliams</li> <li>Sandy McWilliams</li> <li>Sue Smith</li> <li>John Smith</li> </ul>
<b>Somerset Hills YMCA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rishi Bhatnager</li> </ul>	
<b>Somerville YMCA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Krishna Mody</li> <li>Mitali Patel</li> <li>Shanaya Sood</li> </ul>	
ADULT	ACTIVE OLDER ADULT
<b>Hillsborough YMCA:</b> Carol Delaney	<b>Somerset Hills YMCA:</b> Bob Stomber
FAMILY	LEADERSHIP
<b>Bridgewater YMCA:</b> Leslie and Jim Temple	<b>Somerville YMCA:</b> Meher Mankikar
RAY OF LIGHT	LIVING OUR CAUSE
<b>Somerville YMCA:</b> Richa Dwivedi	<b>Somerville YMCA:</b> Heidi Kelleher
BOARD LEADERSHIP	PHILANTHROPY
<b>Somerset County YMCA:</b> Joseph A. Del Buono	<b>Somerset County YMCA:</b> John McManus
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT	
<b>Somerset County YMCA:</b> Jody D'Agostini	

Your generous support helps to strengthen our community.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Eric Eickhorst

**A major car accident left Eric Eickhorst with a broken neck. Soon after, cancer devastated his family.** While nursing himself back to health following the accident, he also cared for his mother as she fought an 18-month battle with cancer. One short month after her passing, Eric was diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his tongue. Following surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, Eric lost 70 pounds and was extremely weak. The treatments left him depleted; that is when he came to the Y. Through the **LIVESTRONG®** at the YMCA program, Eric conquered what cancer stole from him.

"I came to the Y and joined **LIVESTRONG** at the YMCA with the goal of gaining back what I lost to cancer. After treatment, I was at my lowest point. The caring **LIVESTRONG** at the YMCA trainers helped me regain my strength, my spirit and my courage. This program completely changed my life," said Eric.



## AIM HIRE Career Forum

**For 24 years at the Y, the Career Forum program has provided professional skill development and networking opportunities to unemployed and under-employed individuals.** This volunteer-led program runs weekly and is open to everyone in the community at no cost.

In Career Forum, participants gain strategies to augment their job search and learn about job opportunities. For those in job transition, feelings of frustration, hopelessness and isolation are common. We tackle these issues by providing a safe place for participants to connect, along with a subsidized 3-month Y membership to reduce stress. Our goal is to affect positive outcomes and inspire hope by supporting participants in a holistic way so they feel strong emotionally, intellectually, and physically.

Glenn Havelock describes his experience by saying, "At Career Forum, I made connections and got valuable advice that put me in a position to land a new job. The Y membership allowed me to exercise, which made me feel better. Career Forum far exceeded what I could have achieved on my own."

It is in thanks to your meaningful donations and the incredible support of volunteers that we can offer Career Forum as a benefit to the community to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive, which is core to the Y's mission.

## CARING COMMUNITY Togetherhood® Volunteer Program

**Every community faces challenges, and overcoming them takes a village.** That is the foundation for the Y's Togetherhood Program, a member-led volunteer initiative designed to proactively address challenges in the communities served by Somerset County YMCA. As part of the Y's commitment to community, Y members who volunteer in the Togetherhood program work collaboratively to identify opportunities in the community, and then lead projects that address them.

Through the Togetherhood initiative, volunteers of all ages band together as agents of change to make a difference in the communities where they live, work and play. The caring volunteers focus on projects that benefit the most vulnerable neighbors. From making lap blankets for cancer patients to food drives for food insecure families to social events for veterans and more, the volunteers make a significant impact on the lives they touch.

Pictured are Togetherhood volunteers from Bridgewater YMCA and Somerville YMCA who donated 99 handmade blankets for cancer patients to The Steeplechase Cancer Center team at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.



# 928

Passionate Volunteers



Donate their time, talent and service in so many ways to advance the Y's mission and help to strengthen community.

# 610

Job Seekers

Took control of their job search in Career Forum last year.



# 181

Togetherhood Volunteers

Strengthened community by giving back.





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## SOMERSET COUNTY YMCA

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The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. At Somerset County YMCA, we believe everyone, regardless of age, income or background, should have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. For information about Somerset County YMCA and financial assistance, visit us at [www.somersetcountyyymca.org](http://www.somersetcountyyymca.org).



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# TRANSFORMING LIVES

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR >>



**JULY 9**

SOMERSET COUNTY YMCA  
GOLF CLASSIC



**AUG. 26**

FUN FEST  
SOMERSET HILLS YMCA



**OCT. 26**

HALLOWEEN AT THE Y  
HILLSBOROUGH YMCA  
SOMERVILLE YMCA



**NOV. 13, 14, 19**

NIGHTS OF  
CONVERSATION

[www.somersetcountyyymca.org/events](http://www.somersetcountyyymca.org/events)