A SEASON OF GROWTH

The Greater Carbondale YMCA enters Phase II of Community Park Build

With growing excitement, we entered Phase II of the Community Park Build in August 2019.

Landscaping around the entire park, including paving the walking trail, adding seating areas, planting trees and grass has really made the park come alive!

The meditation garden was completed in memory of Benedetta & Marino Zazzera. It's a beautiful area to rest and take in the sounds of nature (the birds, the babbling brook, and leaves rustling in the breeze.)

The park's walking trail connects to the Heritage Trail of the Lackawanna River Walk. Many people have enjoyed walking, running and biking around the park while using the Heritage Trail.

Continued growth is on the horizon with a pedestrian bridge connecting the Ben Mar parking lot to the park, a covered pavilion and a splash pad.

We are continuing to raise funds to meet a DCNR matching grant of $232,800. With to the generosity of the Wilary Foundation, Moffitt Foundation, Scranton Area Foundation, Kelsch Associates and individual donations, we are 33% of the way there!

To contribute to the Community Park growth, contact us at the YMCA or send a donation marked "Community Park"

FUTURE PLANS

Pavilion

Splash Pad

HERE FOR YOU IN EVERY SEASON

SUMMER * FALL * WINTER * SPRING * INFANTS * TODDLERS * CHILDREN * TEENS * ADULTS * SENIORS

GREATER CARBONDALE YMCA IMPACT REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

A SEASON OF COMMITMENT

Dear YMCA Family,

The last year of our YMCA has been very interesting, to say the least. We started out with our largest membership enrollment ever! The upper valley support for our YMCA had been amazing! Our program offerings, child care and our senior programs continued to grow as we went into 2020. All seemed good. Then COVID -19 attacked us, upsetting the smooth-running train.

Since March, it has been proven time and time again, that the Greater Carbondale YMCA truly has the best staff and members in the world! Our staff has constantly crafted plans to keep us safe and enjoying the YMCA. Our members have been even better by continuing to support the YMCA without resolve. Additionally, the Board of Directors have been outstanding with their continued support and guidance of our staff and Executive Director. During all of this, our wonderful Executive Director, Mr. Steve Durkin, decided to retire. His tireless dedication to the YMCA and the community will never be matched. He gave his all to make the Greater Carbondale YMCA the best in the state and one of the best in the country! To just thank him would be too small. His dedication can never be matched again.
As Jason Mackie took on the tasks of Executive Director, we have rebounded with many of our child care, youth and senior programs. We will survive and grow back better than ever! Jason, you have big shoes to fill. Just know, the Board of Directors are here to support you and your staff.

I would like to say a special THANK YOU to all of the members who continued to support the YMCA by paying their dues and making donations while we were closed. In addition, THANK YOU to everyone who supported our food give-a-ways whether by donations and/or helping to distribute the meals. I have been humbled by all of the support this area and community continue to show the YMCA. I am proud to be the President of the Board of Directors.

~~~ William Farber, Jr.

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE Y

Our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees are dedicated and passionate individuals who volunteer their time and resources to the Y. Their roles are critical to the Y's success and a crucial ingredient in the Y's ability to achieve impact, build sustainability and advance the cause of strengthening our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susie Baron, Susanne Beier, Dr. William Dempsey, Jennifer DeNike (Secretary), Bill Farber (President), Tom Fitzsimmons, Paul Gallagher, Wendy Hartman (Vice President), Robert Karoscik, Ann Kraft, Mary Lawler, Mark McAndrew, Patty McHale, Liz Nagy, Gretchen Nepa, Michelle Nevins, Peter Sabia, Ed Staback, Lori Thomas and Ann Vadella (Treasurer)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Joe Calabro, John Devine, Donald Hoyle, Harold McGovern, Mike Mancuso, Susan Mancuso, John Price, Dan Totsky and John Wiedman

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GREATER CARBONDALE YMCA
82 N. Main St. Carbondale PA 18407
www.greatercarbondaleymca.org
(570) 282-2210

proud partner of:
United Way
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties

A SEASON OF SUPPORT

IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, THE Y IS STILL HERE

For more than 110 years, the Greater Carbondale YMCA has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the Upper Valley community. And now, our community is going through unprecedented challenges. Though our doors may have been closed, we were still working to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in these uncertain times. We are humbly grateful for our members who Stayed With Us.

Each year, the Greater Carbondale YMCA reaches more than 10,000 people across the community through programs that help everyone reach their full potential, including the Y's Diabetes Prevention Program, Child Care Programs, Swim Lessons, Telemetry Heart Screenings, etc. Since the COVID-19 situation arose, the Y shifted its focus and responded quickly as the needs of the Upper Valley changed.

This work is essential to our community, and the Y is in a unique position to provide these services. But we could not continue this critical mission without support. Thankfully, many Y members were able to continue their membership with us. With our doors closed, their membership dollars helped us continue this important work. Others, who are not Y members, donated to help support our efforts.

A simple THANK YOU does not seem to cover how grateful we are to our members who Stayed With Us and continued their memberships. Their loyalty does not go unnoticed. We have a strong presence in the community and we will continue to do the work that is needed to keep our children safe, our seniors connected and our community healing because of our members support.

THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH THE Y
GREATER CARBONDALE YMCA
~~~

A SEASON OF COMMUNITY

Carbondale YMCA feeds community

CHRISTOPHER DOLAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ABOVE: Greater Carbondale YMCA program and special events Director James Wiggins hands out free pasta dinners Saturday at a drive-thru event at the YMCA in Carbondale.

RIGHT: Jeremy Popiel of South Abington Twp., right, packages free pasta dinners to be distributed Saturday.

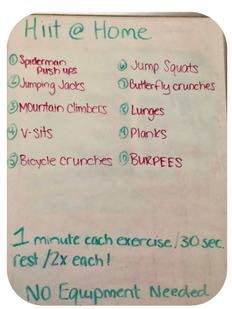
CHRISTOPHER DOLAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

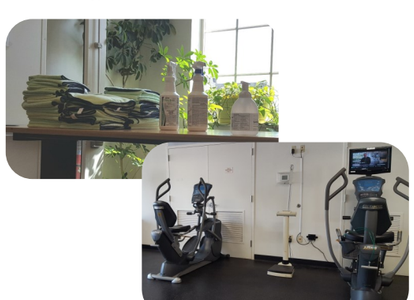
While the nation needed to shut down to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we stepped up our efforts to serve our community.
We held 6 drive-thru meal give-a-ways supplying over 2100 dinners to local families. The people receiving the meals were very appreciative and thankful. Not only did the community benefit, our staff received the pleasure of seeing the smiles and hearing kind words of gratitude from the families.

We'd like to thank the Tenyo Family Foundation and all those who made donations towards the meal give-a-ways. You helped us help many more families it this time of need.

"When COVID-19 began impacting our communities, hundreds of blood drives were canceled, adding to an already devastating public health crisis. Thankfully, generous community partners, like the Greater Carbondale YMCA, stepped up in a big way. Despite being closed during the pandemic, the YMCA opened its doors to host emergency blood drives, helping to ensure that patients from across our region continued to have access to lifesaving treatments. On behalf of the Red Cross, THANK YOU to the YMCA's dedicated volunteers and staff and to our extraordinary blood donors for supporting our mission and our communities." *~~Michele Behr, Executive Director, American Red Cross of Greater Pennsylvania.*

Even though our doors were closed for 3 1/2 months, we were busy! We tried to keep our members engaged by providing at-home workouts and instructor-lead viral fitness classes. Our preschool teachers read to the children via Face Book and held curb-side graduations. The Staff made a viral video telling all our members and children in our Child Care Program how we miss them and look forward to seeing them. Our Directors spent countless hours on Zoom calls with other YMCAs and keeping a watchful eye on the Governor & CDC's recommendations, rules & restrictions awaiting the day when we could reopen our doors. We put every effort into ensuring a safe facility for everyone who would walk through our doors by putting up sneeze barriers, spacing equipment and furniture, adding more sanitizing areas and purchasing equipment to assist in our cleaning procedures.





A SEASON OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

YMCA STAFF ACCLAIMATIONS

"Peter is a Lead Lifeguard and a Lead Swim Instructor in our aquatics department. He is a fantastic instructor who demonstrates incredible patience and knowledge to our swim lesson participants. In addition to being an unbelievable staff member at the Y, Peter is an exceptional student-athlete for Lakeland High School. He holds several swim records and is a high-level competitor who is sought after by many top-notch colleges and universities. With his laid back demeanor and humble roots, you would never know of his many, many milestones and accomplishments."
~~Jeremy Popiel, YMCA Aquatics Director

BOYS SWIMMING

The Times-Tribune 2020 L-REGION TEAM

SWIMMER OF THE YEAR

Lehigh Valley Health Network | Coordinated Health

Peter KAWASH

LAKELAND, JUNIOR

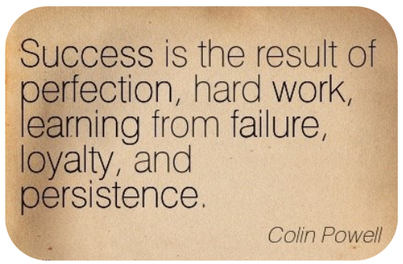
DISTRICT 2 CLASS 2A: Gold in 200 individual medley (1:58.40); Gold in 100 backstroke (51.84; meet record). NOTABLE: Won gold in the 100 butterfly (53.25) and gold in the 100 backstroke (53.12; pool record) at the Les Richards Championships. ... Won gold in the 100 backstroke (53.62; pool and meet record); gold in the 100 butterfly (53.53; meet record) and gold in the 200 individual medley (2:00.9) at the Ernie Shartle Invitational at Tunkhannock. ... Won silver in the 200 individual medley (2:01.71) and silver in the 100 backstroke (53.54) at the Kinney Natatorium High School Open at Bucknell University. ... Third All-Region selection.

"Corinne McCall has worked at the Y for the last year. She works not only as a lifeguard but also as a swim instructor to our younger swim lesson participants. Corinne recently graduated from Scranton Prep where she was a four-year varsity athlete for the Cavalier's swim team. During her time at Prep and with the YMCA Swim Team, Corinne was a key piece in the second-place team finish at the district championship for the Cavaliers as well as being a National Qualifier for 2020 YMCA Swim." *~~Jeremy Popiel, YMCA Aquatics Director*

OUR Y SUCCESS STEMS FROM STAFF LOYALTY

Mary Pantzar (Child Care/Co-Director) - 33 years
Annette Lapera (Child Care) - 26 years
Steve Durkin (Exec. Director) - 17 years
James Wiggins (Youth Programs/Special Events) - 17 years
Teresa Pfeiffenberger (Child Care) - 16 years
Jason Mackie (Youth Programs/Assoc. Director) - 15 years
Joyce Bognatz (Child Care) - 15 years
Victor Gazella (Building & Grounds) - 14 years
Jennifer Hoff (Aquatics) - 14 years
Alice Cavalier (Child Care/Co-Director) - 13 years
Michelle Jablonowski (Child Care) - 13 years
John Wilcha (Building Beautifer) - 13 years
Tom Bonacci (Building & Grounds) - 12 years
Patty Walker (Fitness Instructor) 12 years
Lorrie Williams, RN (Wellness Coach) - 12 years
Craig Borders (Fitness Instructor) - 10 years
Lisa Burke (Marketing & Membership) - 10 years
Nadine Prutzman (Fitness Instructor) - 10 years

Years of loyalty as of June 2020



Mary Fedorchak (Child Care) - 9 years
Shannon Snyder (Child Care) - 9 years
Robin Barker (Aquatics) - 8 years
Kateri Race (Child Care) - 8 years
Paula Scirone (Child Care) - 8 years
Matt Levine (A-Team/Food Program) - 8 years
Carol Scarfo (Building & Grounds) - 7 years
Kim Cook (Building & Grounds) - 7 years
Mary Hessling (Wellness Instructor) - 7 years
Jeremy Popiel (Aquatics) - 7 years
Phil Econopoly (Building & Grounds) - 6 years
Kyreek Johnson (Personal Trainer) - 6 years
Tanya Razawich (Child Care) - 6 years
Laura Mauro (Membership) - 5 years
Clarrie Rupp (Child Care) - 5 years

A SEASON OF FAMILY EVENTS

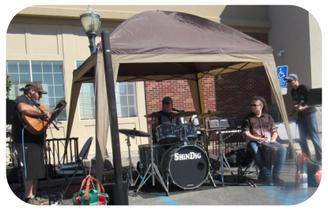
Record Numbers of Families Attend the Fall Festival!

On a beautiful fall day, where the temperatures were more mid-summer like, hundreds of people came to enjoy the fun activities they've come to know and love at our Fall Festival!

For the second year, Kevin Treat, the "Sawptician", held a live chainsaw carving demonstration. Attendees watched is awe as the roar of his chainsaw carved, the hammer of the chisel defined and the wispy sound of the air paint gun finished the creation - a beautiful bench that will be displayed in the lobby of the Y.

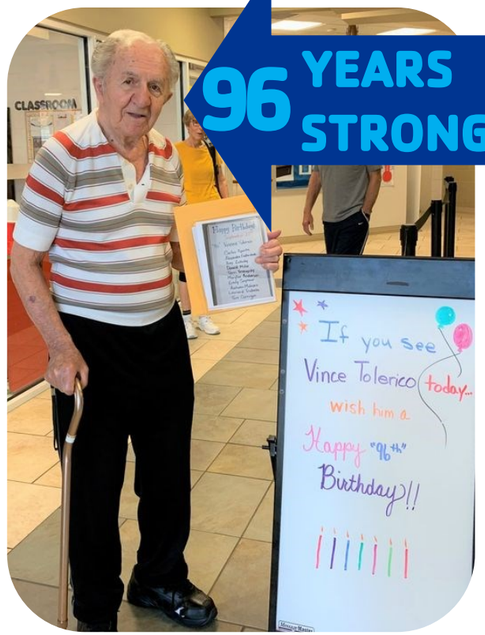
The Donut-On-A-String contest is always a big hit with all the youth! You can't help but smile or laugh watching them hungrily race to finish the donut without using their hands!
What Fall Festival wouldn't be complete without pumpkin painting? They all are masterpieces!

Everyone young and young at heart relaxed with oversized family games, listened to music by Shin Dig and went on a gourmet cookie walk.



We are not in farm country, so we brought the animals to town. The Ross Park Binghamton Zoo brought a variety of small critters and reptiles. Riding the pony & horse and petting the dwarf goats gave the kids lasting memories!

A SEASON OF SPOTLIGHTS



Vince Tolerico has the mind, body & spirit that embodies the Y's mission (and what all of us aspire to be)!
Patti Perri, of Member Services, expresses her admiration, "Vince is an inspiration to me and many of us here at the Greater Carbondale YMCA. He has been a very active member here most of his life. Vince still visits the Y 2-3 days a week to exercise and socialize with friends. He always has a smile on his face, an interesting story to tell and a piece of candy to hand out to make someone's day. Vince's determination and positive mindset to continue his healthy journey, even after many setbacks, is amazing and inspiring!"

When we asked Vince why he comes to the Y, he smiles and states that he's always believed in exercise to stay healthy and here he can do more than exercise; he's met so many new people and made many friends. Vince enjoys life to the fullest and contributes his longevity to family, exercise, red wine and prayer.

When you meet Jean Waters, you instantly feel her caring and compassionate demeanor. Her personality suits well for her profession - Registered Nurse at Wayne Memorial Hospital.

Jean works in the ICU and when the pandemic struck, she was (and still is) on the forefront of the COVID floor tending to the patients. She saw firsthand how devastating this virus is, not only to the person affected but to their families as well. "It was heart-wrenching to tell the families they couldn't be with be with their loved one." she says.

Jean was honored by the YMCA and the A-Team (the Y's program that provides opportunities for youth on the autism spectrum) as a Healthcare Hero for her dedication to her profession, the community and to the A-Team!

From all of us here at the Greater Carbondale YMCA, from the bottom of our hearts, we send our prayers and say THANK YOU to all of the health care workers!

A SEASON OF GRANTS & GIFTS

At the Y, we strive to be diligent in handling our finances. We work hard at procuring grants and fundraising and rely on the generosity of community organizations so we may continue working for our cause - a stronger community.

We were granted the funds and donations from the following organizations:

AllOne Foundation, American Lung Association, Commission on Economic Opportunity, Dick's Sporting Goods, Honesdale National Bank, Lackawanna County, Keystone Stars, Scholarship America, Spring Break for Autism, Tenyo Family Foundation, YMCA of the USA

Last year, funds were donated to improve our property. In the spring, our parking lot on Church & Main had a much-needed makeover! New paving, sidewalks and improved lighting made this corner of town beautiful!

This past year, memorial gifts were made in honor of the following individuals:

Ralph Althouse*, Mary Ann Arcari-Bonacci, Tom Cerra, Michael Delfino, Marie Farienholz*, Keith Garbera, Keith Gliha, John Petorak, Frank Salitsky, Leo Skorupa, Fred Walker, Ambrose "Philly" Wilk, Kate Wood

The YMCA's Endowment Fund is continuing to grow. With the creation of a permanent Endowment Fund, individuals who want to support the YMCA through outright gifts, bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities or Charitable Trusts have those options available to them.

Atty. Jeff Levine will prepare a complimentary will for those who remember the YMCA. Contact the Y for more information.

* We will honor the memory of Ralph Althouse and Marie Farienholz as we add them to our Endowment Tree at a future date.

Because of the generosity of others, the memory of these individuals will live on in each person we serve at the Greater Carbondale YMCA.

& EXTRAORDINARY FUN

Most Successful Christmas Festival to date!

The 10th Annual Christmas Festival was a major success!! It was by far our most successful yet! We raised over $25,000 with all events throughout the day!
The events kicked-off with Christmas Gift BINGO, held to a sold-out audience! The events continued through the day with pictures with Santa; a Build A Bear workshop, which sold out of over 100 animals; Christmas-themed carnival games; refreshment and bake sale; basket raffles, bounce houses and everyone's favorite - open swim!

Pictures with our ever-jolly Santa were donated by NEP and photographed by Alicia Bognatz. All children, big and little, received a complementary photo as a keepsake.

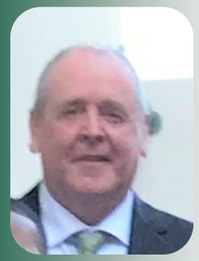
Our 200+ basket raffles boasted an array of items from free marketing solutions, toys, gift cards, tasty treats, vacation packages to a variety of destinations, lottery trees and home essentials.

This all could not be done without the help of our generous sponsors and committed team of elves that make it all possible. Our sponsors donated over $15,000 alone!

The Christmas festival has become a staple of the YMCA events and our community looks forward to the magical night with their families and friends. Planning for the 11th annual Christmas Festival has started as of July 1st, 2020 and we continue to rally together, even during a pandemic, to provide a night of fun and memories for all!

A SEASON OF

Greater Carbondale YMCA Long-Time Executive Director, Steve Durkin Retires



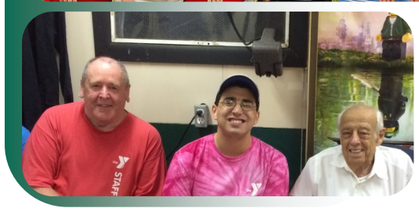
"I am writing this letter on behalf of the Staff and Board members of the Greater Carbondale YMCA. We want to congratulate Steve Durkin on his retirement. As of July 1st, Steve has retired as Executive Director and Jason Mackie has been appointed as the new Executive Director.
I am sure no one ever thought this day would come. I am still finding it hard to believe myself. But as we know, there comes a time in life when decisions need to be made to continue the journey of life.
Steve has always been dedicated, respected and an important part of the YMCA and the community.
I cannot remember the first time I met Steve, but I do remember that we formed a connection that will last a lifetime. I think everyone who meets Steve receives the same impression. I do want to share a story. I call our stories 'The Steve and Lori Adventures' (someday we will write a book!) I was working at the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. Steve came to my office and asked if I wanted to be a board member of the Carbondale YMCA. I asked a million questions and he said, 'Just join the board. It will be fun!' He also said I ask too many questions! I accepted his offer and am truly honored to be a part of this great organization.

Steve had a vision for the YMCA that no one recognized in the moment. His vision was to get the right people to help, donate and make the vision happen. Here we are years later seeing the vision that was started as we ate frozen candy bars and wrote ideas on a napkin.
Steve will always have the YMCA in his best interest. He may have retired from the position of Executive Director, but I am sure you will see him volunteering during his free time.

We wish him all the best and thank him for his years of service and commitment. This quote from the Bible truly states who Steve Durkin is to the YMCA and the Community:

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." **Philippians 2:3-4**

Sincerely, *Lori Thomas,*
YMCA Board of Director



TRANSITION

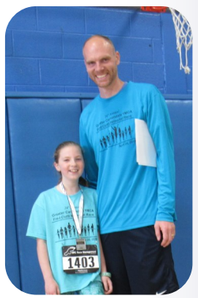
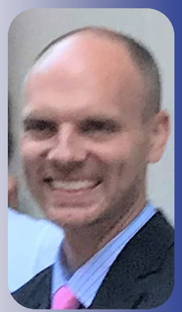
and Passes the Proverbial "BALL" to Jason Mackie

Susan Mancuso, President, YMCA Board of Trustees speaking from the heart said, "Steve has been instrumental to the success of the Y in every aspect. He is certainly "Mr. YMCA". His dedication and love of the Y is the reason we are a "family" here at the Carbondale YMCA."

"It's simple, when you hear or say something about the YMCA, Steve Durkin should come to your mind. He was a true advocate for the YMCA. He lives and breathes for the YMCA. I am happy I was a part of his time here and enjoyed working on the many accomplishments Steve did. His vision and dreams came true and we have the BEST YMCA out there.! Thanks again for all you did, Steve!" *Dan Totsky, former YMCA Board of Directors President and long-time friend.*

"You can say lots of things about Steve Durkin; yet the word that best embodies STEVE is FUN! That is his who his is and his true legacy to the Greater Carbondale YMCA." *Michelle Bannon, long-time friend and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Carbondale City Clerk*

"Steve Durkin has not only been a great YMCA CEO but a valued and trusted friend to many YMCA CEO's. He has assisted in my career development and in helping my Y stay viable in our community. He always shared his experiences with everyone and is always willing to help whoever needs him. It has meant so much to our Wayne County YMCA and to me, to have Steve and the Greater Carbondale as our "big brother". His friendship is deeply valued.
I am thrilled that Jason Mackie has stepped into the CEO role at Carbondale. He is a talented, dedicated employee who has grown significantly over the years. He will carry on the Greater Carbondale YMCA's strong service to the community, his staff, volunteers and other Y's. I am certain that our Y's will remain close and work together for the future of both service areas."
Tina M Hoehn, CEO Wayne County YMCA.

Mary Pantzar, Child Care Co-Director, expresses her sincere thoughts on Steve's impact at the YMCA, "Over the years, Steve has taught us all many things. The one that sticks out the most is Steve always said 'Family comes first.' I think he feels that if family didn't come first, how would staff be able to come to work and give 100% or have piece of mind?" She continues, "Why do so many staff members stay at the Y for years? My guess is that Steve treated us with respect and appreciation. He treated us like his family and was truly concerned about us. There's a part of me that wishes things didn't change (I'm not good with change.) However, knowing Jason is now the Executive Director gives me comfort. Jason has the same values when it comes to patience and compassion with our staff. It's a pleasure and honor to have worked along side both of them. I am blessed to call them my family!"

"The Greater Carbondale YMCA will forever be indebted to Steve Durkin. Without his vision and dedication, I am not sure if the YMCA would be here today. 20 years ago, Steve took a struggling non-profit and turned it into a thriving Community Hub! I feel honored and privileged to be able to follow in his enormous footsteps." *Jason Mackie, newly appointed Executive Director*