



# YMCA of Van Wert County

241 W. Main Street • Van Wert, OH 45891  
(419) 238-0443 www.vwymca.org

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

*We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.*

November 24, 2020

YMCA Members,

The Van Wert YMCA volunteer board and all of the Y staff want to again thank each member who has stayed with the YMCA through a very difficult and unprecedented year. COVID-19 has had a worldwide impact on everyone and seems to be hitting the United States even harder. YMCA's across the country were impacted in different ways and membership numbers dropped for some as high as 51%. We are very pleased that our community and Y members continues to support us and we experienced a much lower rate of 18%, with the national average being 31%. The Van Wert YMCA has a strong and growing family of parents, coaches, seniors, volunteers and over a thousand children, and we are very proud of all that each group offers to the overall betterment of the YMCA.

During 2020, work on the YMCA continued and included painting, rubber floors in the wellness area, heating and cooling upgrades/additions, and new equipment purchases in our fitness areas. In addition, many precautions were put in place to keep our Y safe for all members. Camp Clay also continued to grow and served over 10,000 visitors and campers this year. Painting of the Rotary Nature Center was completed and continued painting at Camp Clay will continue in the spring. Upkeep and operations on a building that is 106 years old continues to be a challenge, however we are committed to making the facility as inviting, safe and functional as possible.

As each of you are aware with your own personal expenses, operational costs like utilities, pool chemicals, cleaning supplies, contracted services, insurances and other operational costs continue to increase. With that said, the board and staff continue to review all service provider contracts and reach out to these vendors to support the Y cause. We are also very blessed to have two foundations that supported over \$75,000 in building upgrades, servicing of equipment and repairs.

The YMCA of Van Wert County is also very active in the Van Wert community. Throughout 2019/20, the Y provided low/no cost memberships to hundreds of needy families and children, military members and disabled vets, developmentally challenged children and adults, low-income seniors, Crisis Care Shelter, Haven of Hope and MRSI.

Over the past 3 years, the Y board and staff have been actively working towards the possibility of a new YMCA. Along with this work came some tough decisions as to what we do and don't do at our current facility. With that said, we are going to focus on some additional improvements both on the inside and outside of our current facility. The YMCA board and CEO have taken a strong look at what is best for the Y, its members and staff during this time of crisis. Below I have highlighted some of those decisions.

- There will be no membership increase for the 2021 year.
- We have contracted with a professional fitness equipment specialist that will guide new equipment purchases. This equipment will begin arriving in December.
- There will be a freeze on staff pay increases for 2021.
- We will be doing non-capital repairs on the outside of the building.
- The YMCA will be kicking off a new website on December 7, 2020.

Please keep in mind that your membership now includes NATIONWIDE reciprocity, which allows you to visit other YMCA's across the country at NO COST. Your membership continues to include free nursery/child watch area to members, free morning and evening fitness classes, including spinning and yoga; free Silver Sneakers/H2O Cardio for qualifying seniors; free open and lap swims; and full use of the Y, including locker rooms, racquetball and basketball courts, discounted golf opportunities at Hickory Sticks Golf Course and dual membership options, and 24/7 amenities that include locker rooms and shower areas. In addition, we provide a low cost summer swimming opportunity at the Camp Clay Aqua Park and discounted season passes. The Y is working hard to provide members with a great experience and continue to focus on our three main goals; facility cleanliness, membership satisfaction and membership growth.

Thank you for being part of the Van Wert YMCA family.

*Hugh G. Kocab*

CEO, YMCA

Board of Directors:

Sara Berheide      Dr. Shad Foster      Rob Gamble  
Rev. William Haggis      Shaun Putman      Krista Stemen  
Mark Schumm      Gary Taylor



OUR MISSION: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all people in our community.

