



# IMPACTING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME

**YMCA OF GREATER SPARTANBURG**  
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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**YMCA OF GREATER SPARTANBURG  
2011 ANNUAL REPORT  
TO MEMBERS**



Dear YMCA Friends and Supporters,

Happy New Year! It is an exciting time to be part of the YMCA of Greater Spartanburg. As we near the opening of the new 13 million dollar facility, I think everyone can feel the excitement and energy in our staff, volunteers, and program participants.

This annual report features people, programs and partnerships that demonstrate the collective impact we can have when we work together for the betterment of our community. The year started with a new YMCA logo. It was a Brand New Day as we joined YMCAs from all across the country in a unified voice to help people understand our mission and our impact. Our Christian mission remains the same and is at the center of all we do: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

In 2011 we were able to provide \$683,906 dollars in scholarships, free programming and services for the community. We were able to engage 1857 volunteers that gave us 22,779 hours of community service. Our annual campaign reached new heights with 760 pledges. As you will see in the report, we were able to collaborate with more agencies than ever before.

But this YMCA is not just about numbers, it is about impact, and this report will provide you with a sampling of how we change lives on a daily basis. This report is about our cause-driven staff members who have chosen to live a life of service to others. This report is about the volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure to provide services to all. They are a valuable part of our YMCA Family. It is about our partners whom we work with to make Spartanburg one of the best places to live in South Carolina.

I thank you for all you do for our YMCA and our Community. I thank you for making our YMCA mission-driven and for helping us live a life of Impact.

Sincerely,  
Rick Callebs, CEO



**GROWING  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

## STRENGTHENING BONDS, IMPROVING LIVES

### Stories of impact from our staff

A couple who joined the Y this year seemed unhappy and a little withdrawn the first several times I saw them in our facilities. As time has passed, they have come out of their shells so much! They are now coming well within reach of their fitness goals, and seem happier overall. They have also been very active in Y functions such as the potluck luncheons and other social events. To me, seeing this improved quality of life for these two individuals has made the YMCA's mission very clear. We are here to improve lives of others!

One of the many stories of impact that we experience at the YMCA is the story of one lady who goes above and beyond all others for 2011. She is the wife of a late YMCA member (of more than 50 years) who served on the board in previous years. He volunteered in so many activities and probably deserves the title of 'best fundraiser' for our association. His passion for improving the YMCA certainly rubbed off on his wife, who continues to diligently fundraise for the association—she even pledged a generous donation in her husband's memory.

This particular member applied for a Gateway scholarship sometime during the early spring and called almost every day to see if her application had been processed, because she was so excited to potentially be a part of the Y. When I called to tell her that she and her family would receive the maximum amount of scholarship, she was so happy that she cried! She was excited to be a part of the Y because she knew that her children would not only learn how to be healthy and active, but that they would also learn about Christ and the values that the YMCA upholds. She quickly became a well-integrated part of the Y and, I think, had just as much of a positive impact on the staff and members as the Y had on her. Every time I talk to her, she tells me how thankful she is to be here and how much her kids love it. In late summer, she called and asked if I knew of any job openings with the Y. Now, as 2011 comes to a close, the YMCA of Greater Spartanburg is proud, and lucky, to have this particular person as a staff member.

One of our members, a minister, was very overweight when joining the Y, and was able to join because of the scholarship program. His life was in jeopardy because he was so overweight, and because of the Y's facilities, and a great amount of personal determination, he lost more than 100 pounds. He is thankful to be alive and finally healthy! The most remarkable thing about this member is that he shares his personal struggles and accomplishments through his ministry to help other people. He is helping others, yet he credits the Y for helping him with his own struggles. I am proud to have this person as a member.

# I AM WHY.

Because being healthy is important to our community



## Energizing Healthy Living

Our Y will always be dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure communities. Being healthy means more than just being physically active. The Y is a place where you can work toward a balanced lifestyle by challenging yourself to learn a new skill, meet new friends, or spend time with your loved ones through one of our many family-centered activities. At the Y it's not about the activity you choose, as much as it is about the benefit of living healthier.

### 2011:

Whether you want to meet new people or simply pursue a new hobby, the Y brings together people who love to stay healthy and learn. Last year we offered races, group fitness classes, fine arts classes, personal training, and special events, all geared toward helping people improve their lives.

### Y Impact: Ricki Lynn

Ricky Lynn has made giant strides toward wellness at the Y this year. She has suffered with fibromyalgia for many years, and was dependent on narcotic painkillers. Since she started coming to the Y, she has become involved in water fitness classes, walking on the treadmill and yoga class. This summer she completed a 5K race, a goal she never thought she would be able to achieve. Her husband recently had major surgery with complications afterwards, but she has continued to come to the Y to receive the loving support that we and all of the friends she has made can offer. She is now free of all narcotic pain medication, thanks to the Y—according to her. She says the only time she is completely pain free is when she is in the water. What an honor and a gift it is to be able to serve and support her and so many others like her.

"I've come so far, spiritually, mentally, and physically!" - Ricki Lynn

**The Y: We're for healthy living.**

# GAINING FRIENDSHIP, SELF-ESTEEM AND BETTER HEALTH



Jonathan, who attended the summer camp program and participates in the Afterschool program, has endured more than many adults do in their mature lives. In the past year, he has experienced a family upheaval that left him with an unemployed mother, no father figure and no grandfather.

Because of the caring staff at the Y, he has grown from being shy and withdrawn to being a positive, outgoing kid! He has learned how to swim, spent the night away from home for the first time, and has even begun taking Zumba®!

The Y has helped Jonathan and his family through difficult times through the Gateway Scholarship program, and now is helping them improve their fitness and health. The Y has made a real impact on Jonathan and his family.

**Our Mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.**

# WE ARE WHY.

Because we are the future



## Nurturing the potential of every child and teen

We believe the values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for life. Because of the Y, more young people in neighborhoods around our community are taking a greater interest in learning and making smarter life choices. At the Y, children and teens learn values and positive behaviors, and can explore their unique talents, and interests, helping them realize their potential. That makes for confident kids today and contributing and engaged adults tomorrow.

## 2011 Program Highlights:

- 58,008 children benefitted from Y programs.
- Our swim team won the National YMCA Long Course championship.
- The swim team girls finished first, and the whole team finished second overall in the National YMCA Short Course championship
- 2380 children learned to swim.



## Y Impact: Chandler

During summer camp, our staff members are privileged to have a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of children. Chandler, a 6-year-old with slight developmental delays, came to us from a lower-income household last summer.

Attending summer camp was his first experience away from home other than his special needs kindergarten class. Chandler experienced a barrage of 'firsts' last year during summer camp: First time in a pool, first night away from home, first time he ate s'mores, first time he rode a horse, even his first field trip!

But the biggest 'first' for this child was learning to socialize with typical children his age, and understanding discipline from his counselors. He had never had to listen to what others asked of him—i.e. following the rules—but by the end of the summer, he was a very different little boy than when he arrived during the first week of camp. He had learned to follow rules and interact with his peers, social skills that will last a lifetime!

# YOU ARE WHY.

Because by giving back we support our friends and neighbors

## Inspiring Social Responsibility

The YMCA of Greater Spartanburg has been listening and responding to our community's most critical social needs for more than 140 years. We know that when we work as one, we move people and communities forward. That's why we are committed to providing support to our neighbors and opportunities for kids, adults, and families to give, join in, or advocate in the name of a stronger community.

## 2011

Through the annual Partners with Youth campaign, the generosity of others is at the core of our existence. In 2011, our 1857 volunteers provided 22,779 hours of service to the Y. With the support of 760 contributors, we were able to provide \$683,906 in scholarships, subsidies and free programs to children and families in our community.

We are a powerful ally and advocate for our community. Last year, through our strong partnerships and collaborations with local corporations, non-profits and foundations we were able to expand our impact on such issues as childhood obesity, education and the overall health and well being of our community.

## "My success wouldn't have been possible without the Y!" - Carol

The Y made a significant impact in 2011 on Carol and her husband, who joined just over two years ago. Carol had recently undergone bariatric surgery, and her husband was there to be supportive. After several months, she had lost a significant amount of weight -135 pounds cumulatively!

She is no longer trying to lose weight, but rather working towards building muscle mass and leading a healthy lifestyle. During the first year, her husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer and continues to participate in water fitness classes between treatments. They both attend group fitness classes on a regular basis and were able to walk more than a mile in the water during a recent class. These two are kind, quiet people who are thoughtful, appreciative and truly amazing people.



One of our members brought his horses to the YMCA last summer for the day camp children to ride. There were so many children that had never seen or interacted with animals, making this experience extraordinary. The looks on their faces were unforgettable as they had the opportunity to see, touch and even ride the horses!

The Y: We're for youth development

The Y: We're for social responsibility