



IMPACT NEWS

JUNE 2025 | YMCA OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD

#StrongerTogether



DONNA SITTARD, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

"The secret to getting ahead is getting started." - Anonymous

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

Don't forget to register for summer camp!



WE WORE PURPLE

In support of World Lupus Day our staff adorned the color purple on May 9 & 10. Here are just a few pictures.
























NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVOR MONTH – JUNE

While our association wore their Cancer Survivor ribbon color on June 6th, we also wore the colors dedicated to bring awareness. So please consider wearing the color you want during this month and any other day to support National Cancer Survivor Month.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE...



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  PINK
Breast Cancer |  BLACK
Melanoma |  GOLD
Childhood Cancers |
|  TEAL
Ovarian Cancer |  DARK BLUE
ColonCancer |  BURGUNDY + IVORY
Head & Neck Cancer |
|  WHITE
Lung Cancer |  BURGUNDY
Multiple Myeloma |  LIME
Lymphoma |
|  PURPLE
Pancretic & Leiomyosarcoma |  GREY
Brain Cancer |  PEACH
Uterine Cancer |
|  ORANGE
Leukemia |  BLUE
Prostate Cancer |  KELLY GREEN
Kidney Cancer |
|  EMERALD
Liver Cancer |  TEAL + WHITE
Cervical Cancer |  TEAL + PINK + BLUE
Thyroid Cancer |
|  PERIWINKLE
Esophageal & Stomach Cancer |  YELLOW
Sarcoma, Bone & Bladder Cancer |  LAVENDAR
All Cancers |

FOUNDER'S DAY JUNE 6

A lot has changed since George Williams and 11 other young men gathered in London in 1844, but the heart of the Y's work remains the same. We are one of the oldest nonprofits in the United States and rely on members and donors to continue our work. Thank you for your continued support!

The YMCA of Greater Springfield was established May 3, 1852.

AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

- Celebrations such as Father's Day, and organizations like the Peace Corps, all have their roots at the YMCA.

SUMMER CAMP

- The oldest known summer camp, Camp Dudley, first opened in 1885 and countless numbers of youth have since learned the skills and wonders of camping through the Y, developing critical skills and making memories along the way.

INNOVATING & INVENTING

- From James Naismith's invention of basketball to instructors creating racquetball and what would eventually become volleyball, the Y has a rich tradition in activities that are played by millions of people around the globe. One Y staffer, Robert J. Roberts, is credited with inventing the term "body building."

A NOBEL PEACE PRIZEWINNER

- YMCA leader John R. Mott was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for the Y's groundbreaking role in raising global awareness and support and for the organization's humanitarian efforts.

FURTHERING EDUCATION

- The Y is credited with spearheading the first public libraries, night school for adult education and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

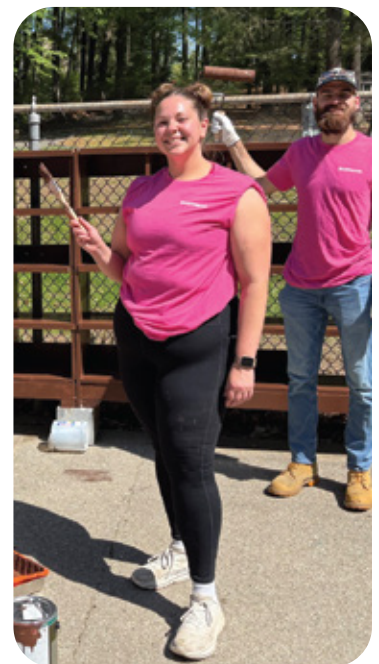
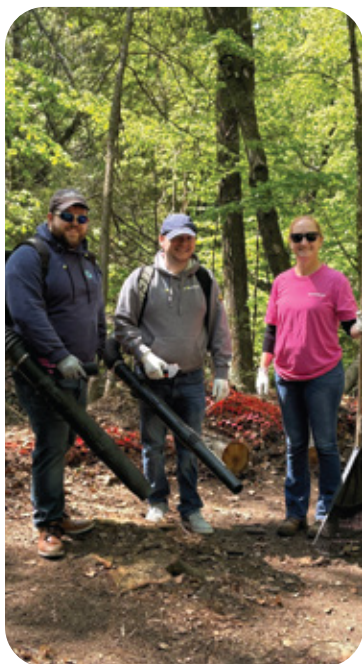


THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING CLEAN UP CREWS

Liberty Mutual calls us each year before we can even call them. Volunteers came out to clean up the Wilbraham Learning Center playground, including spreading new mulch, washing windows, and washing down a lot of toys that the kids play with. The children loved looking out the window at them. Thank you, Liberty Mutual.



Eastman had a beautiful day for their annual Camp Weber Clean Up. It was all sunshine! This wonderful group sends 40-50 volunteers each year, spending a day, with hundreds of cumulative hours amongst them, doing various tasks to get the camp ready for the summer. It's a large camp, 75 acres, and when we ask for help, they just roll up their sleeves and jump right in. They do a fantastic job cleaning out the pool and all the used areas from yards work, painting, trimming overgrowth, cleaning up fall leaves and fallen branches, and so much more. Thank you, Eastman.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING CLEAN UP CREWS (CONTINUED)

Lia Toyota of Wilbraham is one of our newer volunteer groups to the Y. This year we asked them to help clean up our bushes and mulch around our Scantic Valley YMCA. Without hesitation, they said yes. No matter what the project is, they want to help. Thank you, Riley Campbell and Lia Toyota of Wilbraham.



MGM Springfield joined us again this year, a group always willing to help. This time they had the outside project, helping us clean up the grounds at our North End Youth Center on Dwight Street in Springfield. What an amazing job they did. Thank you, MGM Springfield.



ANNUAL MEETING

On June 5, 2025, the YMCA of Greater Springfield held its annual meeting at our Scantic Valley YMCA. Dexter Johnson welcomed all those in attendance, discussed 2024 outcomes along with Karen Mercier, CFO speaking on the fiscal year; and a 2025 look ahead.



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WHY THE Y

It’s been approximately two years if not more since I joined the Y in downtown Springfield. I was impressed right out of the gate. Those that you see right away when you come in are kind and friendly. The staff are always busy trying to conduct fundraisers to better the community and they put a lot of effort and thought into it, including their hearts. The overall cleanliness is outstanding, it seems there is always someone emptying the trash, mopping floors, or washing towels, etc. The trainers are so gentle and supportive. I’ve witnessed some amazing care and concern by the trainers. I’ve managed to become friends with everyone on the staff. Thank you all so much for everything you do. – Allen Reed



I like playing with the blocks and playing in the gym with my friends. I learn how to be kind. My favorite memory in the afterschool program was when we had pajama day. It makes me happy to come to the afterschool program and play with my friends. I would let other kids know that it is fun and you get a lot of friends. – M

THE HALLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC

This past school year the children at our Learning Centers have been working with Mr. Jeff during music time. This music enrichment class is providing the children with singing and basic, age appropriate instrumental instruction. Music promotes language and listening, memory, motor, literacy and speech skills.

We would like to thank the Charles H. Hall Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee for their continued support of this program.



LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS SEND KIDS TO CAMP

For over a decade a group of individuals, lead by community member Jean Gailun, has reached out to their friends and family to make donations to help send kids to summer camp. Each year over 150-200 children have been supported to attend our YMCA's day camp. This is all part of the financial assistance program the Y has, raising funds to help children, individuals, and families better afford their membership and program participation.





CLEANING OUT THE CLOSET?

Do you have some clothes that you can't wear anymore? Go through your closets and dresser drawers. If you have some clothes that are clean and still in good condition, but you just don't wear them anymore, please consider donating them to the yellow collection bin at the Scantic Valley YMCA, 45 Post Office Park, Wilbraham.

If your company would like to sponsor a box similar to this at your business location to support the YMCA of Greater Springfield please contact Donna Sittard, Development Director at dsittard@springfieldy.org





FOLLOW US!

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/YMCAofGreaterSpringfield

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/ymcaspringfield/

X (TWITTER): twitter.com/YMCASpringfield

Don't forget to follow our social media pages. That will be another way the YMCA of Greater Springfield will be able to communicate with you about weather related delays and closings. We do our best to be OPEN, but Mother Nature does not always cooperate.

SPRINGFIELDY.ORG

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