



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

WINTER 2012/2013

Friends of the Y:

What was previously regarded as unprecedented times is becoming more and more recurrent every day. We live in times when every natural disaster and violent act feels like a blow to the human spirit. We're all still weary from the crippling effects of Hurricane Sandy and the tragedy in Newtown, CT that broke our hearts. We're more aware than ever how precious and short life is. No matter how you embrace what may be a new reality in 2013, we hope to help you appreciate and enjoy every valued moment of your life. We also hope that you can find joy at the Y, whether it's reading to a child, volunteering to help the elderly or participating in a wellness program. We are committed to be evermore compassionate, flexible, and prepared. These catastrophic events truly validate the importance of a unified community, one whose members are there for each other in times of good and bad. Such connections are built at the Y every day, and we hope you find sanctity in them.

In Health and Happiness,

Angie L. Reese-Hawkins
President and CEO

YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

YMCA of Metropolitan Washington
1112 16th Street NW
Suite 720
Washington, DC 20036
P 202-232-6700
F 202-797-4486
www.ymcadc.org

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Angie L. Reese-Hawkins



SHARING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH LOCAL FAMILIES

No matter your religious or spiritual beliefs, the holidays are a time to celebrate something special—our friends, our family, our traditions, the roofs over our heads and food on our tables. This November, members and staff graciously donated turkeys, stuffing, canned vegetables and more to our food drives. This altruism allowed us to provide **1,270 Thanksgiving meals** to families in our programs and organizations across the region. Many branches also held toy drives to give kids the magic of Christmas morning. YMCA Alexandria distributed over 150 toys, including 30 bicycles, on December 12th with the help of Mayor Euille, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to all who helped us spread joy this holiday!

WOW, WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

The last quarter of 2012 was filled with events. In September, we celebrated the love of golf and philanthropy through **two charity golf tournaments**. YMCA Silver Spring and YMCA Youth & Family Services welcomed 79 guests and the highest number of sponsors yet to their 7th annual tournament. The next day, YMCA Capital View and YMCA Anthony Bowen partnered with the Betty T. Wooten Foundation for a day of fellowship, awareness and support. They hosted 105 golfers, including breast cancer survivor Bonnye Parker and FOX5's Allison Seymour. Collectively, the tournaments raised over \$48,000.

There are few better ways to revive community spirit than through a charity run. On October 6th, YMCA Alexandria united the community for their **Activate Alexandria 5K Walk/Run** to Fight Childhood Obesity. There were 128 participants and 13 sponsors in its 5th year, raising nearly \$12,000 for youth wellness programming. For two Maryland Ys, Thanksgiving morning is a day of traditions, reconnecting and working up an appetite. Nearly 9,000 runners from all over the country came out to celebrate **YMCA**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase's 30th annual Turkey Chase, bringing in \$160,000 in support. Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and his wife Catherine served as this year's Grand Marshalls. We were proud to have the most media buzz ever, thanks to WUSA9's Anita Brikman, FOX5's Tucker Barnes, the Washington Post and many others. Across the beltway, 977 runners gathered on a 219-acre peninsula off the Chesapeake Bay for **Camp Letts' 13th annual Turkey Chase**. Not only did they raise about \$45,000, but they hosted the largest number of participants yet!



Golf, races, galas and more! This fall, we painted the town red with two festive galas. On October 23rd, over 300 Y staff, volunteers and community leaders commemorated our 160th anniversary at the **YMCA of Metropolitan Washington's Annual Celebration**. The sights and sounds gave a modern take on history—from Abraham Lincoln on stilts and a photo montage of our past to Y school-aged kids singing their own version of the YMCA song. We also honored 10 individuals and organizations for their impact, all of whom are listed at www.ymcadc.org. On November 17th, YMCA Fairfax Co. Reston's gym was transformed into a whimsical, Olympic-style ceremony. The **13th Annual Community Gala** welcomed 280 guests, including Reston's Founder Bob Simon, raising \$162,000 in honor of advocacy and philanthropy.



THE HARGRAVE HERITAGE CLUB

For 160 years, the Y's cornerstone has been built on legacies. Named after Thomas Hargrave, Jr., President Emeritus of our association and inaugural member, the **Hargrave Heritage Club** honors those who have named the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington and/or one of its branches or programs as a beneficiary of a will or estate plan. We were privileged to induct 14 members in our founding class, the Class of 2012, at our Annual Celebration. If you are interested in leaving a legacy for future generations, please contact Tycely Williams at 202-745-5261 or Tycely.Williams@ymcadc.org.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW VICE CHAIR!

We are eager to share the election of **Keith Smith as Vice Chair** of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington's Board of Directors. Keith, Director at Prime Policy Group, has a long history of supporting the Y and we are grateful for his leadership and passion. He grew up in an independent Y run by his father in Alabama, and, after coming to DC, has served on YMCA Alexandria's Board and assisted the Y in lobbying efforts. "Since the days of my Dad's YMCA, I have believed in the mission of this important organization," states Keith. "I'm honored to serve metropolitan Washington in this capacity."



NEVER FALTERING TO SUPPORT KIDS & FAMILIES IN NEED

At 4:30am on September 20th, a fire broke out outside of **YMCA Prince George's County**, causing extensive damage to the exterior and classrooms. The center was shut down for four months during repairs and renovation. As the Bowie Y's child care services are vital to its community, Trinity Lutheran Church in Bowie, MD reached out to us with open arms. They allowed us to house our services and families at their location just a few blocks away. We deeply thank Pastor Jaim Gann for helping us continue to offer stability and growth in our time of need. The renovated facility re-opened on Moylan Drive in January with a rebuilt wing, new furniture and equipment, and a renewed spirit of gratitude.



UPDATE ON YMCA ANTHONY BOWEN, COMING MARCH/APRIL 2013

We're just months away from the grand opening of **YMCA Anthony Bowen** at 14th & W Streets, NW. The events, partnerships and programs are growing every day. Imagine at your Y—the latest equipment and group exercise programs, a heated 6-lane pool, a teaching kitchen with classes led by premier chefs, a 2-story rock-climbing wall, an enriching Youth Academy, social events on the rooftop and more. Now for our latest development: an integrated **Sweetgreen!** On January 12th, we hosted over 100 residents at the historic 12th Street Y for a special preview party. The National Symphony Orchestra's Glenn Donnellan joined us for an engaging and educational violin and fiddle performance. More surprises are on the horizon, so join our listserv at www.ymcadc.org for updates!

MISSION OF THE YMCA OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

To foster the spiritual, mental, and physical development of individuals, families, and communities according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality, and mutual respect for all.