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One Y for a better us.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Wisconsin/U.P. Michigan
State Alliance of YMCAs
October 1, 2020



CEO MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2020 Wisconsin / U.P. Michigan Alliance of YMCAs (Virtual) Fall Leadership Conference. As we gathered together last fall in Appleton, Wisconsin I would venture to say none of us could even begin to imagine what 2020 had in store for us. At that time no one had heard the term "COVID-19" and our vocabulary wasn't filled with words like; unprecedented, social distancing, quarantine, pandemic, Zoom call and of course "toilet paper shortage."



As we have moved through this challenging time, YMCAs have faced one of the most difficult times of our 176 year old movement. Mandatory facility closings, disruption of services and massive employee layoffs hit YMCA leadership with complications that couldn't even be fathomed in the worst of nightmares. For a very brief moment in time, YMCAs found themselves asking "How will we survive this?" Then, in that very same moment Y staff and volunteers did what great leaders do best, they shifted their thinking to "How can we help?" How can we help our members, our colleagues, our friends and our community? As those questions were answered, Y leadership stood tall and did what Ys do best, they got to work and started helping. Ys provided critical services like childcare for essential workers, food programs, blood drives, personal phone calls to those facing social isolation and virtual classes to serve their members and community. Y leaders also immediately became engaged in community outreach and strengthened existing partnerships to work together to serve those around them.

As we were working through the challenges of COVID another challenge came to the forefront in our country. However, this one would not be solved with masks, social distancing or a vaccine. This challenge wasn't new to us like the COVID crisis, it has been existence for far longer. The discussion of social justice, equity and equality is one that we are far more familiar with, yet still struggle to find the right actions and solutions. However, in a similar manner Ys begin asking "How can we help?" While this conversation goes far beyond our organization Ys have quickly determined they can and will be part of the solution.

So with all of that said, why take time to jump on yet another Virtual meeting? Well, in my humble opinion, there is no better time than NOW to say THANK YOU to the amazing volunteers who we will recognize today for their super-human support that they have provided to local Ys. Without their time, talent and treasure suffice to say, our Ys would not be able to weather this storm. There is also no better time than NOW to have a deeper conversation and begin to take action on how our amazing organization can be a positive influence to the social unrest currently happening within our great country.

As I celebrate 30 years of service, and 40 years of membership with the YMCA last month, I have never been prouder to be a part of this organization. I have great faith that as we LISTEN, LEARN and LEAD TOGETHER that our Y movement will emerge through these times as a servant leader to our communities and country. Thank you for being a part of the 2020 Fall Leadership Conference.

Jon Agnew

CEO, Wisconsin/U.P. Michigan State Alliance of YMCAs

AGENDA

12:00-12:15 PM	Welcome	Jon Agnew / Joe Swanson
12:15-1:15 PM	Courageous Conversations An Open Discussion on Diversity And Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cindy Altergott, CEO, Kenosha• Sean Elliott, CEO, Green Bay• Chris Stenberg, CEO, Superior Douglas• Carrie Wall, CEO, Milwaukee	Opening thought by Dave Brown, Chair of Y-USA African-American Resource Network
1:15-1:25 PM	Break	
1:25-2:20 PM	Leadership Awards	Joe Swanson
2:20-2:30 PM	Closing	Jon Lange

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE PLANNING MEMBERS!

Shanéé Jenkins | YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

Ahmad Qawi | Racine Family YMCA

Aaron Schmidt | Kettle Moraine YMCA

Julia Wohlt | State Alliance of YMCAs

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

A Discussion on Diversity & Inclusion

One Y for a better us.

Opening thought by Dave Brown
Chair, African-American Resource Network
dbrown@cdymca.org



Cindy Altergott
CEO
Kenosha YMCA
caltergott@kenoshaymca.org



Sean Elliott
CEO
Greater Green Bay YMCA
sean.elliott@greenbayymca.org



Chris Stenberg
CEO
Superior Douglas County
YMCA
cstenberg@superiorymca.org



Carrie Wall
CEO
YMCA of Metropolitan
Milwaukee
cwall@ymcamke.org

LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

The YMCA Leadership Award is presented to the outstanding volunteer as nominated by the leadership from each of our YMCA's. Join us in recognizing these dedicated leaders.

ROMY DECRISTONFARO

Camp Jorn YMCA

Romy has a long history with the Camp Jorn YMCA. First as a Camper and then as a significant part of our staff team (Junior Counselor, Senior Counselor, and Program Director). She moved on for a bit like many do to focus on her career and family but Camp was never far from her mind. When she was needed to bring stability, maturity and commitment to the Board of Directors, she jumped in with both feet in 2014. She took leadership roles immediately and was voted in as the Board Chair in 2015 and served for 3 years in that capacity. She managed a lot of conflict along with board and staff leadership transitions. Always with respectful poise and vision of a positive future of organizational impact. She will have her 6 years in this fall (Oct 2020) and we have a change to honor her achievements. Short and sweet - she is AMAZING!

VICTOR RECKMEYER

Camp Manito-wish YMCA

Victor is the Board President for Camp Manito-wish YMCA. Throughout his long tenure with the Board and Camp as a whole Victor has always been a strong supporter - perhaps none more so than in 2020. Not only did he lead the approval of a new strategic plan this year, Victor has also been instrumental in supporting Camp while it navigated through the impacts COVID-19 had on Camp. He has spent countless hours reviewing budget projections, led the way in securing additional funding, and has ensured the board was informed with the critical information each step of the way. We often talk at Camp about what it means to be a leader. Victor's leadership this past year has truly defined what it means to be a Manito-wish leader.

JIM VANDER HEIDEN

Door County YMCA

Jim Vander Heiden is a recently retired architect who joined our Board of Directors as we were beginning planning for the renovations and expansion of our Sturgeon Bay Program Center. Jim's experience has been invaluable as we have finalized the design to make our facility more accessible and comfortable for our members and guests in a post pandemic world. Jim has spent countless hours visiting related facilities and working on plan revisions. Jim's dedication and commitment to the YMCA will result in a better facility to serve our community.

BONNIE SCHMITZ

Fond du Lac Family YMCA

Bonnie has been an instrumental leader for our YMCA. Her dedication and leadership have been critical for our Y, specifically over the past year and a half, as we have faced challenging opportunities such as major flood damage, leadership changes, and now the global pandemic. Bonnie chairs our Finance Committee and has given visionary direction in each of those areas, to ensure the long-term stability of our Y. She is always willing to ask the tough questions to ensure that all avenues have been covered, and then graciously supports the collective decision. Bonnie gives so generously with her time and has become an important mentor to our leadership team at the Y. Bonnie is a true "cause-driven leader" and she embodies our YMCA's mission and values. We are grateful for all that she does for our Y. Thank you Bonnie!!

JULIE KOLB

Geneva Lakes Family YMCA

Julie has served as our Board Chair for the past 3 years. She has served our Y during unprecedented growth which ultimately lead to our Y's start of a capital project and purchase of land for our future YMCA facility. During our current pandemic Julie helped lead our organization with calm steadfast leadership. She was always willing to help, stay in the loop on current Y changes, and offer guidance. Thank you Julie.

MARK WIERMAN

Glacial Community YMCA - Pabst Farms Branch

Mark Wierman has been a long time volunteer with our Y, serving on the Annual Campaign Committee as a volunteer, a past Co-Chair, and in 2019, our veteran campaigner of the year. Mark has also served on our association finance committee for the past several years, and is tireless in his efforts to ensure our Y's financial stability and sustainability. We are so thankful for Mark's efforts and service over the years - he truly is a joy to serve with!

JARROD THOMAS

Glacial Community YMCA - Watertown Branch

Jarrold Thomas has been the board chair for the Watertown Area YMCA and served on the Association Board for the Glacial Community YMCA for the past 2 years. He will continue to serve on both boards and will take on the Secretary role for the Association. Under Jarrold's leadership, the Watertown Branch completed a Capital Feasibility study which came back very positive for our YMCA. Jarrold is very active in the Watertown community and is a strong advocate for the future of our YMCA. Thank you Jarrold for your dedication to the Watertown Area YMCA and the Glacial Community YMCA.

SCOTT JOHNSON

Greater Green Bay YMCA

Since joining our Board of Directors in 2014, Scott has been a truly impactful board member. He has served on numerous committees including our Downtown Capital Campaign, CEO Search, and Strategic Planning, to name a few. As an Executive Committee member, the past few years have been exceptionally busy for Scott. In 2018 he led the search for our new CEO, and in 2019 he became our Board Chairman, helping us navigate through a devastating tornado resulting in our beloved Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya closing that summer for the first time in its over 80-year history. Then 2020 brought COVID-19 with countless challenges, which Scott met head-on, including leading weekly Executive Committee meetings for 3-months to ensure board officers received current, first-hand information regarding our Y's status. Through it all, Scott has stood with us to help make and support extremely difficult decisions. Thank you, Scott, for your steadfast leadership and unyielding commitment to our YMCA.

LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

MIKE MEINEL

John E Alexander South Wood County YMCA

Mike's leadership, time and service to our organization over the past 11 years has been filled with accomplishments and contributions that have helped our YMCA reach new heights. He has served and led various committees that has led to the development of a new \$28 million dollar YMCA facility along with key partnerships with the Department of Veteran Affairs as well as Boys & Girls Club. Mike is completing his tenure as Y Board Chair; however, is the Y's current Foundation Chair. The impact and position the YMCA is in today would not have been possible without Mike's dedication and leadership.

MARY LYNN BENNETT

Kettle Moraine YMCA

Mary Lynn has, and continues to challenge all of the staff to think outside the box. From Diversity and Inclusion to Child Care for the community, Mary Lynn commits her time to helping drive these priorities for our organization, and it is greatly appreciated.

JACKIE KUEHLMANN

La Crosse Area Family YMCA

We are honored to recognize Jackie Kuehlmann as our 2020 YMCA Leadership Award winner. Jackie is passionate about the Y and our cause in the community. Since joining the Y Board in 2016, Jackie has had a significant impact on our organization through a variety of leadership roles. She chairs our Board Leadership & Governance Committee, chairs the 2020-2022 Strategic Planning Task Force, serves on the Executive Committee, and will assume the role of Board President beginning in 2021. Through her professional role as a Marketing Manager for a large La Crosse manufacturer, she shares her time, talent, experience, and expertise with the Y and gives back to our organization in immeasurable ways. Additionally, throughout the challenges we have faced as a result of the pandemic, Jackie has provided thoughtful and steady leadership and vision for our YMCA. Thanks, Jackie for your dedication and commitment.

DENNIS TIENOR

Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA

Dennis is a tireless advocate for non-profits in our community and the Y has been a tremendous benefactor of his efforts. He has served as an Annual Campaign volunteer and a member of our Endowment Committee. Additionally, he served as a key leader of our Capital Campaign Leadership Team which successfully raised \$4 million for our Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA. Dennis truly understands the power of collaboration and can always be counted upon to recognize opportunities for people to work together to strengthen our Lakeshore community. Thank you, Dennis.

ALEN JOHNSON

Marshfield Area YMCA

Alen served on the Marshfield Area YMCA Board of Directors for the past 6 years. During his tenure on the board he attended every special event, road race and/or annual campaign event to give of his time, talents and financial support to ensure success. In addition to his board service Alen also volunteers as a group cycling instructor for the 5 am crowd. Alen truly exemplifies what it means to give back to his community, thank you Alen.

CORY SEBASTIAN

Racine Family YMCA

Cory Sebastian began volunteering in the Racine area in 2015 when she first joined the Racine Community Foundation Grants Committee. Through grant research she was introduced to the Young Leaders Academy program and the YMCA and instantly wanted to get more involved with the program. She then joined the Advisory Board for the YLA. She taught etiquette and career development classes for YLA students, joined the Advisory board for Strong Communities, became the Chair of Fund Development, joined the YMCA Board of Directors and sits on the Executive Committee and Marketing committee. During the Covid-19 crisis Sebastian with the YMCA and a team of volunteers organized a daily lunch program for RUSD students. During the nine weeks roughly 15,000 lunches were served.

WALTER J. VOLLRATH III

Sheboygan County YMCA

Walter has provided leadership, dedication, time and energy to the development of Camp Y-Koda Outdoor Skills and Education through his years of YMCA service. Walter has always had a life-long passion for the outdoors. He is an avid sportsman enjoying hunting, fishing, hiking and shooting sports. He served on the board of directors for the Sheboygan County YMCA in the 1980s and 1990s. In an effort to support Camp Y-Koda and outdoor skills programs he lead the effort to bring back the 2019 Camp Y-Koda Banquet with great success. During the summer of 2020 Walter gave his time helping as a Camp Naturalist working hands-on with youth. His energy was contagious. Everywhere Walter went campers would smile, wave and yell, "Hi Walter!" His passion and hard work ethic contributed to a positive workplace culture for both camper and staff at YMCA Camp Y-Koda. He jumped in and helped as a care taker of our Camp Y-Koda property when needed, including feeding the birds daily and rearing 74 Monarchs for camper enrichment. Walter is a lifetime YMCA member, past board chairman and donor dedicated to a strong future for the YMCA and Camp Y-Koda Outdoor Skills and Education.

NANCY QUINLISK

Wisconsin/U.P. Michigan State Alliance of YMCAs

Nancy Quinlisk has had a long and incredibly impactful relationship with the La Crosse Area Family YMCA. Nancy served as Board President for the La Crosse YMCA in 1985 and 1994 and as a YMCA Board Member from 1982 to 1986 and again from 1992 to 1997. Nancy joined the YMCA Trustees where she served from 1998 through 2019. Today Nancy serves as an honorary YMCA Trustee. In 1994, Nancy and her late husband Warren donated twenty acres of land in Onalaska in hopes that the site could be a future home for a YMCA. In 2005, construction was launched on the YMCA North, which opened to the community in August of 2006. Their gift of land was the catalyst for the YMCA to be built in Onalaska. In 1999, the La Crosse YMCA established the annual Nancy Quinlisk Award. This award is given annually to an individual who has volunteered time, talent, and/or financial gifts to advance YMCA programs which build healthy, confident, connected, and secure kids and adults. Throughout the years, Nancy has volunteered in a variety of YMCA programs, including serving as a mentor to youth. Nancy has served on the Wisconsin State Alliance of YMCA's Board of Directors, providing guidance and direction for the Y movement within the state. Nancy's dedication of time, talent and financial resources has had a major impact on thousands of boys and girls who have participated in YMCA programs for nearly forty years.



LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

MONICA SPERL

Stevens Point Area YMCA

Monica Sperl has been an active volunteer for the Stevens Point Area YMCA since 2016. She has successfully led our Swim Team Volunteer Parents Group serving as the Vice Chair and now as the Chair. Monica led our swim team through a year when we were without our head coach, helping manage two successful swim meets, fundraisers and many other events and activities that kept our team parents engaged and supportive in our transition. Monica is currently leading a small Capital Campaign for our Swim Team with a goal to raise more than \$20,000 to support the purchase of new equipment for swim meets. We are so thankful for Monica's leadership and dedication to our YMCA.

JIM JAMES

Superior Douglas County Family YMCA

Jim has selflessly and passionately served as a leader on our Camp Committees and Task Forces over the past 5 years. Thanks to Jim, we have completed a master plan concept and have made many needed improvements at our camp. Jim leads by example and is the first to volunteer to run a project and the first and last person to leave the job site. Our camp property, program participation, alumni and donor engagement have all been improved under Jim's leadership. The work is ongoing and we are so grateful to have Jim as the greatest ambassador of our Y Camp.

EFFIE SIOMOS

YMCA of Dodge County

If ever there was a friend of the YMCA of Dodge County, it is Dr. Effie Siomos. Her commitment to the Y over years can be attributed to a strong belief in making a positive difference in the lives of kids. She has a great ability to articulate the mission and the work of the Y. When asked why she volunteers for the Y, her response is... "I believe in the work of the Y and I feel I can make a difference." That is why she has been a faithful Y volunteer for over 10 years. Her service to the Y can be described as highly organized and determined. When she sets an objective, there is no stopping her! In addition to these exceptional attributes, Effie is very humble and a friend to all she meets. During her tenure she has faithfully served as a member of the Y Board of Directors. Her professional background as a physician combined with a strong business acumen has helped the Y through some very challenging times. You can bank on Effie being at the monthly meetings and providing strong leadership. Effie has chaired the board development, membership/program, and strategic planning committees. She has also served as the board president from 2017-2018. Approximately two months into her tenure as the president, she learned that the CEO would be leaving the YMCA of Dodge County. During the next eight months, Effie's strong leadership successfully guided the board and staff through a very challenging time for the Y. A board member commented, "Effie has the complete respect from her fellow board members and her calm disposition kept us focused during the most pressure filled meetings." Dr. Effie Siomos has been a great example of a Y volunteer that is determined, enthusiastic, loyal, and willing to share her time and talents. She is an extraordinary volunteer and representative of the mission of the YMCA of Dodge County.

RICK ANDRITSCH

YMCA of Greater Waukesha County

Rick Andritsch has been a board member with the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County since 2003. Rick has led numerous committees, has served on one of our branch boards and is the current CVO of our Association Board of Directors. Rick's goal as CVO was to create a strategic plan that will set a path for our Y in the years to come and with his hard work, dedication, and leadership he has succeeded in achieving his goal. We would like to recognize and thank Rick for all his efforts in moving this Y forward.

ANDRÉS GONZALEZ

YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

Andrés has proudly served as our Social Responsibility Committee chair since its inception in 2017. He has provided leadership in our efforts to advance Equity, Inclusion and Diversity by providing guidance and sharing resources for best practices. A seasoned, credentialed diversity, equity, and inclusion practitioner, Andrés embodies the definition of a servant-leader. He has also represented our YMCA by sharing our DIG journey and the alignment with his employer, Froedtert Health with neighboring YMCA's. He is a thought leader truly committed to the cause.

RON BECHER

YMCA of Northern Rock County

The YMCA of Northern Rock County lost a very valued Community Leader in August after a short battle with Leukemia. While he is no longer with us, we celebrate him and his long standing efforts within the community and for the Y. Ron was a deeply dedicated individual and when he committed to something, like the YMCA, he went all in. Ron was a quiet leader and listened closely to the information around him while gathering his own and drawing from his vast experience. When the YMCA of Northern Rock County decide to consider building a Y in Milton, Ron was a key player for the project. His construction experience with JP Cullen was a significant benefit to the planning team. Every meeting he was prepared and provided quality direction and leadership. His calm approach helped the project find success in the end. Some will tell you the Y would not be there without this efforts. Ron provided budgeting, value engineering and construction services to improve the design, lower costs of the design/construction and obtained the most competitive proposals from subcontractors. In addition he secured more than a \$500,000 towards the project. He had a presence that was strengthening and warming at the same time. He is someone who truly made things better.



LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

JERRY JACOBSON

YMCA of the Chippewa Valley

A long term member of the Chippewa Falls YMCA, Jerry is a Trustee of the Foundation and active community member outside his role as the President of Northwestern Bank, where he has worked since being named a Cashier in 1981, became Executive Vice President in 1996 and was named President in 1998. Jerry is only the 8th President in Northwestern Bank's 116 years of operation. Besides the YMCA, he is active in the community, through countless volunteer hours given to organizations such as the Chippewa Falls YMCA, Chippewa Falls Chamber, Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital Board, United Way, Chippewa Valley Technical College Foundation, Community Foundation of Chippewa County, St. Charles Parish Trust, Chippewa Area Catholic Schools, Junior Achievement Board, Chippewa Falls Main Street, Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology, Chippewa Valley Bankers Assoc, St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Hospitals Board, Blugold Beginnings, Boy Scouts, and the list goes on. In addition to his role as a YMCA Foundation Chair, he is an active daily member at the Y.

MARY HOSMER

YMCA of the Fox Cities

Mary has been a member of the YMCA of the Fox Cities Corporate Board since the 2002 merger of the Appleton and Neenah-Menasha YMCAs. She has served in various roles, including, but certainly not limited to: Chair, Vice Chair, Board Secretary, Growing Stronger Together Capital Campaign Chair and Appleton Master Planning Task Force Co-Chair. Mary's impact at the Y goes back much further than her work on the Corporate Board. She was recognized as the Lucille R Orbison Leadership Award recipient in 2005 for her phenomenal work and leadership at the Appleton YMCA which included Board Chair and campaign chair roles. Mary and her husband Ray have been lead supporters of countless campaigns over decades. After decades of support, leadership and advocacy roles at the YMCA of the Fox Cities, Mary now serves as a volunteer Board member of the Wisconsin / U.P. Michigan State Alliance of YMCAs. Mary's strength of character, integrity and tireless effort and dedication to serving has greatly influenced many lives. We are proud to recognize Mary Hosmer with the 2020 Leadership Award on behalf of the YMCA of the Fox Cities.

SCOTT KOEHNKE

YMCA of the Fox Cities - Apple Creek

Scott has been a member of the Apple Creek Operations Committee for almost 15 years. Scott's work with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has brought passion and critical skill sets to water and land management, along with wildlife and fisheries expertise for the Apple Creek YMCA's Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve. Scott has advocated for the Y in so many things from gardening to hunting and permitting to grant writing. We are so blessed to have Scott's continual guidance.

JIM HIETPAS

YMCA of the Fox Cities - Appleton

Jim Hietpas is an exceptional board member and dedicated volunteer for the Appleton YMCA. Jim's leadership, engagement and dedication has influenced the success of our YMCA through these key roles: 25 years on the Y-Service Club; a Board member since 2010 and an Officer since 2012; active campaigner for our Annual and Capital Campaigns; a continuous and reliable special event volunteer and member connector. The YMCA is blessed and honored to have Jim's continued support and involvement as an ambassador for the Y community!

TODD TIMM

YMCA of the Fox Cities - Fox West

Todd Timm, District Administrator for the Hortonville Area School District, is currently serving his second term on the Fox West YMCA Board. Todd encourages collaboration between the school district and the Y to best serve our community. Our Fox West YMCA is the largest 4K site for the District and has partnered on a 3-year old inclusion preschool program. The District also provides space for the Y school-age programs and youth sports leagues. We truly appreciate our partnership with Todd and the HASD.

JOHN POLANSKY

YMCA of the Fox Cities - Heart of the Valley

John Polansky began his involvement with the Heart of the Valley YMCA as a volunteer for a variety of program areas and events including our annual Turkey Invitational Gymnastics meet and Father Daughter Dance. His leadership and passion for the YMCA's mission became evident through his involvement as a volunteer. He was nominated onto our Board of Directors in 2016 and served as Chair of our Facility Committee. He is currently serving as Secretary of our Board and Chair of our Program/Membership Committee. John also serves as a volunteer on our Annual Campaign Committee. John, thank you for your advocacy of the work and mission of the YMCA in our community!

DAN EVENSEN

YMCA of the Fox Cities - Neenah-Menasha

Dan Evensen has been a strong YMCA leader through his role as board Chair and his work to further the YMCA mission. As board chair, Dan attended all committee meetings and provided tremendous leadership and guidance to the entire board. He worked to create a cohesive board team that worked to support the YMCA as it continued to serve the community. As a YMCA advocate, Dan worked on every Annual Campaign during his board service and made a number of connections throughout the community that led to gifts. He also was a wonderful advocate within the YMCA as he served as a liaison to members in communications about the Y initiatives and services. As a community leader he helped to make sure the YMCA was always in the conversation. The Neenah-Menasha YMCA is very lucky to have leaders like Dan Evensen and very proud to have him as our leadership award winner.



DAN NEWHOUSE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Dan Newhouse Leadership Award was created to recognize retired Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula Michigan YMCA CEO's who have provided leadership to their respective Y community, the Y's throughout the state and some who have shared their expertise nationally. Each fall, all 33 of the corporate Y's have an opportunity to nominate a retired YMCA CEO, living or deceased, to be recognized at the annual leadership conference held each fall. This spring all CEO's voted on the top 2-3 CEO's to be recognized for the corresponding year. With several qualified retired CEO's eligible for this award, recognizing a minimum number annually will ensure that the tradition of this award lasts a long time.

TOM BLAZE OSHKOSH FAMILY YMCA

Tom Blaze's storied YMCA career spanned 43 years and 6 different YMCAs. From his start as an Adult Fitness Director in Champaign, Illinois, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Y, becoming an Executive Director at three different YMCAs before accepting the role as President and CEO of the Oshkosh Community YMCA in 2003.

Tom came to the Oshkosh Y during a financially difficult time. For nearly 10 years before his arrival, the Oshkosh Y operated in a deficit. As a result, our Y had problems finding a CEO who was willing to take on the challenge. However, that all changed when our volunteer leadership met Tom Blaze. Tom not only faced this challenge, he more than rose to the occasion. During his 17-year tenure of solid leadership and innovative ideas, he turned the Oshkosh YMCA into a successful, financially strong organization – growing an annual \$4.3 million dollar budget to nearly \$10 million before retiring in 2019.

Under Tom's direction, the Oshkosh Y enjoyed 17 years of unprecedented surplus and growth. In addition to turning around the financial operations, he made his mark on our facilities. Tom raised over \$20 million in capital dollars through campaigns to expand our ability to meet our mission. This first resulted in a substantial addition to the 20th Avenue facility, but his tireless efforts did not end there. He then spearheaded fundraising which substantially reduced the organizational debt and ultimately constructed a new, state of the art Downtown Y location. While he leaves a permanent legacy with our Y, the community was also blessed to have Tom as an active member of Oshkosh Rotary and the Oshkosh Chamber Board while he served as a leader in his church. There was hardly a community event that Tom did not attend or touch in some way. Always a public advocate for the Y, he selflessly lent his expertise to many other professionals and organizations, and in so doing grew to be a great friend to many in the Oshkosh community. He is sorely missed but his time here left an indelible mark on all whom he touched.



REID STANGEL GREEN COUNTY YMCA

Reid began his 33 year YMCA career in 1977 at the Stevens Point Area YMCA. His first position at that Y was the youth director. By 1984 he advanced to the Associate Executive Director at Stevens Point shifting his focus from youth development to Wellness and Fitness programming and association administration. In May of 1986 he became the Executive Director of the Green County Family YMCA in Monroe, Wisconsin.

During Reid's 24 years as Director of the Green County Family YMCA he accomplished the following:

- Brought the "new" YMCA out of debt and established a healthy YMCA in a small market.
- Established the total offering of programs that now exist at the Green County Family YMCA. This includes a gymnastics program that in 2019 hosted the National Gymnastics Championship.
- Conducted three very successful Capital Campaigns that doubled the size of the initial Y footprint.
- Grew membership and program participation to meet budget demands of the larger facility.
- State Level Leadership: served as Program Chairman of the State MRC. Worked as a Y consultant on three community "Build a YMCA" feasibility studies.
- Since retirement has served twice as Interim Director of the Green County Family YMCA and has mentored Trent Henning, the current Green County Family YMCA CEO.
- Serves on the YMCA committee for future building projects.
- Continues to lead the Y Fit for Life exercise class three days a week which he started over 44 years ago.
- Has truly been a community leader in Monroe for over 34 over years.



Past award recipients:

Dan Newhouse, Pat O'Brien, Fred Hauser, Jack Murray,
Tom Jackson, Steve Harty, Anne Derber



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Mary Panzer, Volunteer
Aaron Miller, Waukesha County
Jess Mieling, Glacial Community

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Lisa Coombs-Gerou, Milwaukee
Michell Hampton, Marinette-Menominee
Carley Hoelzel, Milwaukee
Rob Johnson, Kettle Moraine
Amy Korth, HealthTIDE
Jon Lange, Glacial Community
Amy Meinen, HealthTIDE
Hanna Misiak, Waukesha County
JJ Raffik, Fond Du Lac
Rich Roehrick, Oshkosh
Bret Salscheider, South Wood County
Chris Stenberg, Superior-Douglas
Kirsten Weglarz, Marinette-Menominee

YMCAs OF WISCONSIN & U.P. MICHIGAN

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

Door County YMCA
 Fond du Lac Family YMCA
 Greater Green Bay YMCA
 Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA
 Marinette-Menominee YMCA
 Northern Lights YMCA
 Oshkosh Family YMCA
 Sheboygan County YMCA
 YMCA of Marquette County
 YMCA of the Fox Cities

NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

Camp Jorn YMCA
 Camp Manito-wish YMCA
 La Crosse Family YMCA
 Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA
 South Wood County YMCA
 Stevens Point Area YMCA
 Superior-Douglas County YMCA
 Woodson YMCA
 YMCA of the Chippewa Valley
 YMCA of the Northwoods

SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

Geneva Lakes Family YMCA
 Glacial Community YMCA
 Green County Family YMCA
 Kenosha YMCA
 Kettle Moraine YMCA
 Phantom Lake YMCA Camp
 Racine Family YMCA
 Stateline YMCA
 YMCA of Dane County
 YMCA of Dodge County
 YMCA of Greater Waukesha County
 YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee
 YMCA of Northern Rock County

