



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE YMCA OF GREATER HARTFORD 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

I believe.

I believe.



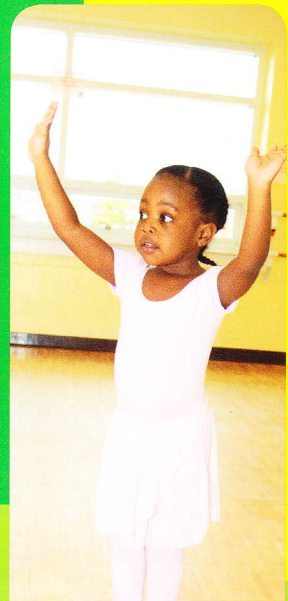
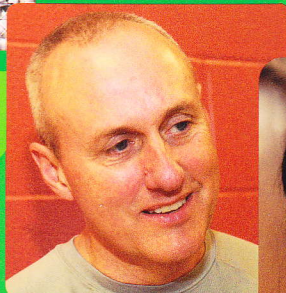
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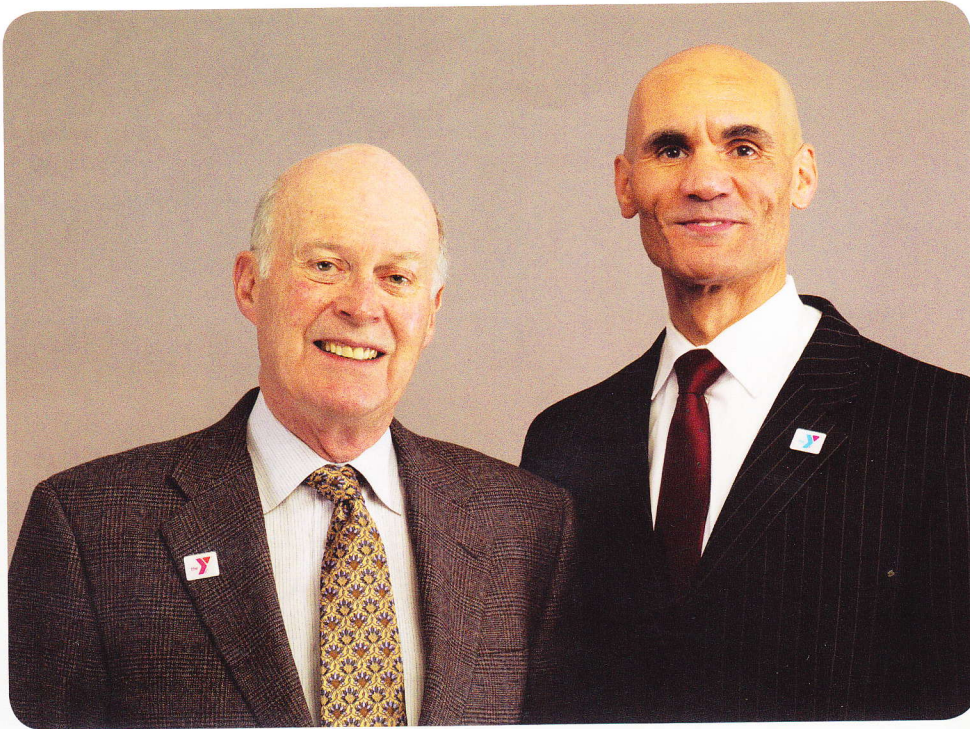
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To the people of the YMCA of Greater Hartford

The believing never stops. Every time we visit a Y in greater Hartford, we hear the kind of stories that affirm how deeply people believe in the Y, and why they believe. These stories embody what the Y does in support of children, families and adults from all backgrounds. Y storytellers are your friends and neighbors, your relatives and colleagues. They're you.

Yes, every time we visit a Y, we not only hear your stories, we actually see them in your faces—in the smiles of children who participate in our Youth Development programs, in the eyes of parents from our Family Time groups, in the attitudes of our volunteers and staff. Those smiles, those eyes and those attitudes continue to illustrate how the Y is such a rich, vibrant tapestry of hope and optimism, of help and generosity.

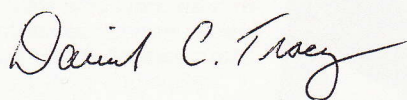
That tapestry is stitched together by our three pronged vision:

- To put a "caring adult" in the presence of every child;
- To be "good stewards" of the resources that are given and entrusted to us; and
- To work, in "partnership" with others, to eliminate disparities in health and education.

Many of your stories, comments and observations directly reflect our vision. And with nine branches, two resident camps, and literally hundreds of programs, the impact of that vision runs deep, as reflected in the stories throughout this Annual Report.

There is much we want to share. For one thing, we now serve more individuals and families than ever before. We collaborate with far more organizations—about 50 in all. We sponsor some of the most progressive programs in our history, such as **LIVESTRONG®**, which helps cancer survivors, Read to Succeed, which aims to eliminate adult illiteracy, and the Y Teen Incentive Program, a program that provides teens with free Y memberships in exchange for academic success. We inspire more companies to join our cause. We do more with less, while maintaining quality and building transformative leadership.

We expect to accomplish more in 2012. But we know some things will remain the same. For example, we know we will still be able to count on your expertise, ideas, financial support and servant leadership. And we know, we will always enjoy hearing the stories behind your devotion and commitment to the Y. So we dedicate this Annual Report to all the people whose eyes, smiles and attitudes speak volumes about the rich and vibrant tapestry that is the Y: the children, parents, supporters, volunteers, board members, and others who believe. Let's make certain the believing never stops.



Daniel C. Tracy
Chairman of the Board



James O'S. Morton, Esq.
President and CEO

1. To put a "caring adult" in the presence of every child



I believe.



Chances are that whenever I. Charles Mathews notices a young person trying to make the most of a situation, he sees a little of himself. And that's why he is devoted to putting a caring adult in the presence of every child, a philosophy in which he believes deeply.

I. Charles, a corporate board member and Chairman of the Board of Managers at the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth & Family Center, instantly transports back in time when asked about the key events that generated that belief. As a boy growing up in Boston, he had a speech impediment that prompted his school to label him as mentally challenged. But a chance meeting with a speech specialist named Mrs. Mear proved to Charles and his family that he was very bright and that his impediment could be eliminated.

"At first I felt like I had no hope. It seemed that no one would give me an opportunity. But Mrs. Mear saw things in me I never saw in myself," Charles recalls. "She stayed with me. Even when she lost her job, she worked with me every week." When Charles left high school to join the

Thanks to Camp Jewell in Colebrook, Sequin Jackson was able to get back on track as an adolescence filled with confidence, instead of calamity. Thanks also goes to her grandmother, Barbara Turner, who's been involved with the Y for years, spends time as a branch board member, and firmly believes in what the Y can do for children of all ages.



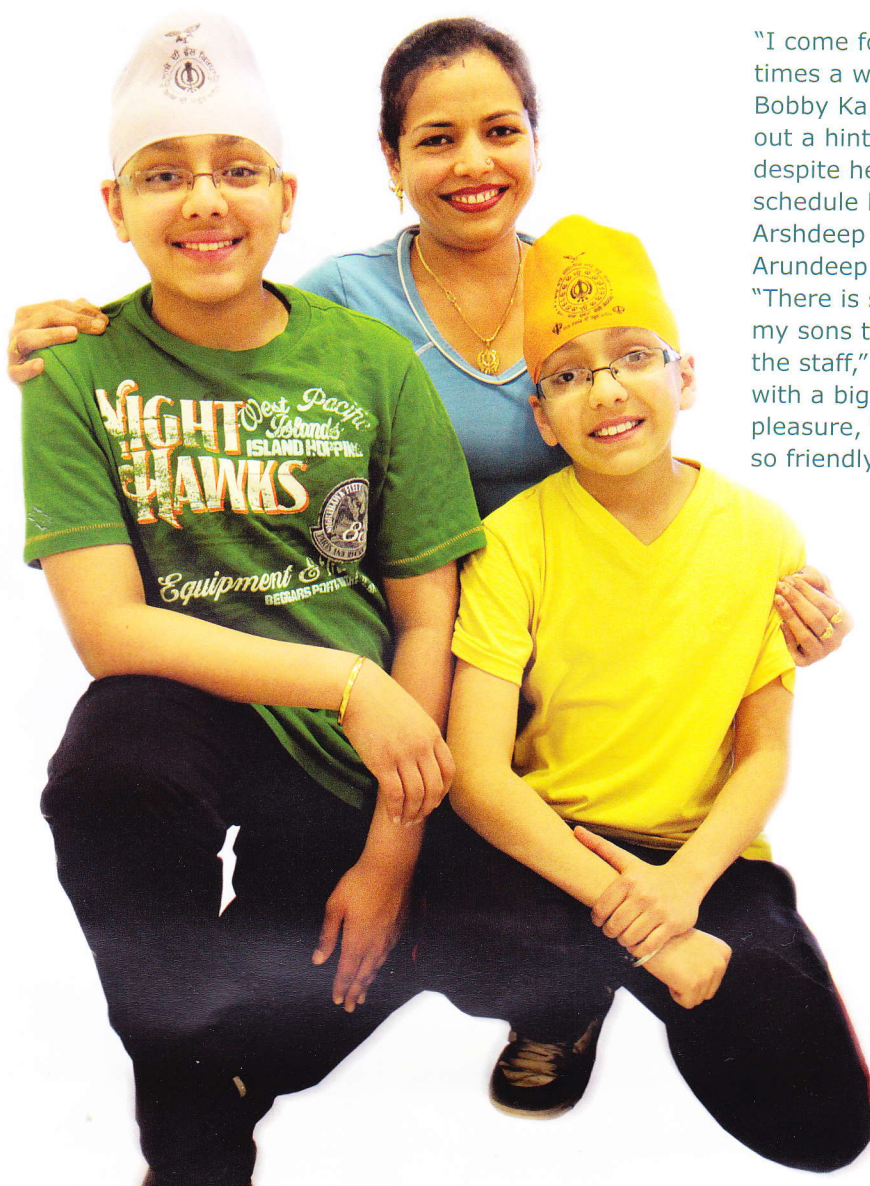
Marines, Mrs. Mear made two requests: one, to keep in touch, and two, to continue to strive to do better. He abided by both requests.

Similar advice came from a very notable and influential source—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whom he had met at a rally. Upon learning that Charles had left school, Dr. King said to the young man, "You need not always be a high-school dropout."

That guidance, too, was well taken, and Charles eventually graduated from Wesleyan University and then Cornell Law School. As an attorney and community advocate, he spent his professional life working on a variety of issues and causes.

"When the opportunity to join the Board of Directors at the Y came up, and I read the phrase describing its goal of putting a caring adult in the presence of every child, it hit me like a ton of bricks," he says.

Now officially retired, he devotes as much time to the Y as possible, networking with organizations and soliciting donations so that today's youth will have Y stories to tell tomorrow.

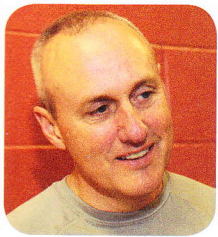


"I come four or five times a week," says Bobby Kaur, without a hint of distress despite her hectic schedule bringing Arshdeep and Arundeeep to the Y. "There is so much for my sons to do. And the staff," she adds with a big hint of pleasure, "is always so friendly."

Abigail Mullen (left), Margaret Andreyeva and Jack Kittredge help kick off a new Zumbatomics class. Abigail, says mom Michelle, has been taking classes since the age of three. Jack's mom Mary Kay admits he initially begged to take the class to compete against his older brother's full activity schedule. With the Y, that's never an issue.



2. To be "good stewards" of the resources entrusted to us



I believe

You might say this event had 'vroom' to grow—even though the stationary bikes never moved. But that's how co-chairs Jim Fleming and Vicky Bullock approached the challenge of raising as much money as possible at the second annual Mission in Motion Ride at the Downtown Y. As a result of their efforts, and the many volunteers who helped, they raised over \$13,000 for the Y's Strong Kids Campaign to support youth and adult programs. More than 50 riders were involved, and some were heard saying that what they were doing was good for Hartford, and good for building strong children and families. Stationary bikes have never gone so far!



Y staffer Faith Palmer said she believes in the Y "because it gives children a safe place to be." As she proves here, it's also where children take a decisive step into adulthood: Faith is showing Classical Magnet school student Jayquan Starks the proper way to fill out a college application.





The YMCA of Greater Hartford is an association, open to all and committed to helping people develop their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body. Our commitment is based on the belief that the purpose of this three-fold development is to live out the values of our Judeo-Christian heritage, including caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

You might wonder if Deborah Evans and Marcy Yanus have much in common: Deborah, our Vice President of Leadership Development and Staff Support, is a single woman originally from Barbados who became involved with the Y just this year; Marcy, Executive Director of the Farmington Valley Y, is married with two children, has been in the Y family for 12 years, and just relocated from Grand Rapids, MI. Guess what! They have a lot in common. Both have personal convictions about the need to put a caring adult in the presence of every child, both feel it is important to reach out to the community, and both love the outdoors (Deborah, gardening; Marcy, hiking). The Y opportunity came along unexpectedly for Deborah, and she calls her new life here a "purposeful journey, because I believe in children." Marcy arrived by way of a national search and says, "It immediately felt like the right fit for me. I believe in reaching out to the community." And there's the most important thing they have in common. They both believe.

I believe



The 2011 Robert C. Knox, Jr. YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award, honoring the memory of the late Hartford insurance executive whose dedication helped our organization grow, has been presented to one of our esteemed Y trustees, Ruth H. Grobe.

Like Mr. Knox, whose goals included the ability for the Y to unremittably serve people in the community, Ruth has devoted her life to helping others, particularly those who are disadvantaged or feel excluded from society. The R. C. Knox Award is the perfect tribute for the kind of tireless advocacy that Ruth embodies.

"I'm thrilled and honored—though I certainly don't devote my time to the Y for awards," Ruth says. "But it sure is nice to be on a list with so many wonderful people." The YMCA of Greater Hartford has been bestowing the Distinguished Leadership Award since 1977.

Ruth grew up on Long Island as the Civil Rights movement was building momentum, and the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a profound effect on her development and her life's work. She deplored the fact that so many people—some who were very close to her—struggled with their roles and feelings of inferiority.

"From that time on it became my personal goal to help people who are on the outside and who feel excluded from the greater community. We must eliminate all disparities," Ruth says. "That's one of the Y's goals, which of course is why I believe in it so deeply."

Another facet of her life that mirrors the mission of the Y is the work of her husband, who founded a nonprofit organization called ServCorps, that organizes volunteers to rehabilitate affordable housing and help with reconstruction after natural disasters. Her husband is a retired minister of youth who works with many young volunteers, which shows how putting a caring adult in the presence of every child, another Y objective, is in her family's DNA.

Ruth chaired the YMCA's Metropolitan Board of Directors, from 2008 to 2010, and is currently co-chair of the Y's Philanthropic Advancement Committee. She calls the opening of the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth & Family Center on Albany Avenue in Hartford the realization of a dream. "Wilson-Gray supports urban families in building a better life for themselves," she says. Ruth helped raise funds for the Wilson-Gray Y and served on the planning committee.

"Fundraising isn't always an easy task, and I actually told the Y executive board at one point that it wasn't something I thought I could do," Ruth recalls. "But when you truly believe in something, wonderful things can happen. Now fundraising is my major function, and when I realize the effect these efforts