

1885

1885: Evanston YMCA founded with 130 members. President: M.P. Aiken. \$5 per year fee. Budget: \$2,210.

1886: First location in Rink Building. W.S. Mather, first General Secretary.

1899: Camp Hope in Phantom Lake, Wisconsin. First Evanston YMCA overnight camp for boys. Predecessor to Camp Echo.

1898: YMCA moves to 1611 Orrington and installs first telephone.

1908: Rev. James Talley's request for African-American young men to join YMCA is rejected.

1906: Evanston YMCA wins Central AAU basketball championship 18-11 over Lewis Institute.

1910: First Learn-to-Swim campaign, for both boys and girls, conducted by the YMCA.



1917: First Red Cross First Aid class.

1914

1914: Emerson Street Branch (African-American) YMCA built and opens. Talley named Executive Secretary.



1924: Camp Echo moves to Long Lake near Fremont, MI.

1918: YMCA helps returning servicemen find jobs, and gives each three months free membership.



1962: Wheelchair Basketball program initiated.

1958: Family Gym program begins.

1966: First African-American Board members elected to Evanston YMCA.

1960: Evanston YMCA Girls Swim Team wins Illinois State YMCA Championships.

1960: Doug Monahan starts Indian Guides® program at Emerson Street Branch and Evanston YMCAs.

1968: YMCA Men's Club sponsors a drive to aid Chicago families displaced by riots following MLK Jr. assassination.

1968

1968: First Illinois City Youth and Government program founded at Evanston YMCA.

1969: Emerson Street Branch YMCA closed—Executive Director Roy Buley moves to Grove Street YMCA.



1990: First Jewish and second female Board Chair: Alice Kreiman.

1987: First female Board Chair—Luann Bleavans.

1990: Project SOAR program begins. Initial partnership with Evanston Police Department mentoring youth ages 9 - 14.



1994: Murdough Pool and Grimm Family Aquatic Center built.

1995: Children's Center opens at 1420 Maple with full day care, pre school, and after school programs.

1997: Project SOAR forms partnership with Northwestern University, providing students as mentors.

1997

1997: First African-American Board Chair—Robert Reece.



2002: Sebring-Lewis Center opens. 30,000 sq. ft. facility with running track, basketball courts and meeting space.



2001: Women comprise half of YMCA's 9,200 members.

2003: New fitness machines, group exercise studio, and comprehensive weight training area provide health and wellness options for all.

2005: Shorefront publishes *Gatherings: The History and Activities of the Emerson Street Branch YMCA*.

2006: Project SOAR wins NAACP community service award.

2010: 125th Anniversary. Membership exceeds 10,000.

2008: New vision statement developed: "We will welcome everyone; inspire, activate and impact all—in spirit, mind and body."

2010

1979

1979: First Evanston Express 10K race.



1971: Indian Princesses program added to Indian Guides®.

1985: 100th Anniversary.

1984: Evanston YMCA renamed "McGaw YMCA" with major gift from Foster McGaw family.

1924

1926: Hi-Y Club produces first musical show (predecessor to Brillianteen).

1929: Cornerstone of Evanston YMCA laid at Maple and Grove.

1930: Dedication of new 1000 Grove Street building. Residence for 241 men.

1930: Evanston YMCA wins State Championships in aquatics and handball.



1929: Emerson Street Branch YMCA doubles in size. 19 dorm rooms created for African-American Northwestern University students.

1931: Over 1,000 counseling sessions provided for jobless men during The Great Depression.

1935: Evanston YMCA's 50th Anniversary. 5,000 members.

1935: Nat Cole performs for high school prom at Emerson Street Branch YMCA.

1935

1954

1957: Desegregation of Evanston YMCA begins with elementary school students.

1957: Evanston YMCA wins YMCA Prep Division swimming championships.

1954: First Pancake Breakfast (to fund building and world service): 5,000 people attend.



1951: Emerson Street Branch YMCA opens day care center.

1952: Brillianteen begins, performs "Good News."

1948: Camp Echo's first Family Camp.

1947

1947: Camp Echo's first session for girls.

1939: Tri-Hi-Y: first YMCA club program for high school girls.

1944: "Plantation Room" at Evanston YMCA opens for young people. \$15,000 raised to fund opening.



January, 2010

Dear Friends,

125 Years Strong. We hope you'll agree the YMCA in Evanston is, indeed, strong. What are the criteria for an institution to last for 125 years or more? We asked ourselves that and decided:

Strong mission, vision and values ~ Strong volunteers & staff
A strong commitment to understanding and meeting changing community needs
Strong membership ~ Strong financial and community support
Strong generations - of kids, of families, of folks of all ages.

More than anything, however, a lasting institution is made up of people, people who exemplify the criteria above. The YMCAs in Evanston have been blessed with thousands of people of commitment and conviction throughout its history. The timeline of our history shows many examples of dedicated leaders, from the founding Board of the Evanston and Emerson Street Branch YMCAs, to our current Board, committees, volunteers and staff active today.

Our goals for 2010 are to reconnect with many of those whose lives were impacted by the YMCAs in Evanston, communicate our vision for the future, and celebrate our history with the community. We can only achieve these goals with strong community participation. As you will see in our calendar of events this year, we have numerous opportunities for engagement and ask that you join in. We want you to join us, get involved and learn more about 125 Years Strong.

Thank you to our Premier sponsors who are partnering with us throughout the year. Their generosity, support and leadership will help us move forward as we mark this commemorative year.

Please join us as we celebrate 125 Years Strong.

Sincerely,

Patty and Bob Reece
Co-Chairs

Jan and Tom Hazlett
Co-Chairs

Vickie Burke
Board Chair

Bill Geiger
President and CEO

2009-10 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Vickie Burke, *Chair*
Suzanne Calder, *Vice Chair*
Dan Israelite, *Treasurer*
Sandra Hill, *Secretary*
Jan Hazlett, *Member at Large*
Doug Honnold, *Member at Large*
Tom Walder, *Member at Large*

Members

Kristin Brown
Betsi Burns
Sidney Caselberry
Jac Cerney
Susan Emrich
Louis English
Elena Garcia Ansani
Steve Gilford
Freddie L. Greenberg

Rejji Hayes

Kirk Hoopingarner
Rosa McAndrew
Carol Remen
Bart Rocca
Michele Rogers
Don Tarkington
Patricia Vance
Casey Lewis Varela
Michael Walker
Matt Walsh
Eric Witherspoon

President and CEO
Bill Geiger

Ex-Officio
John Peterson

125th Steering Committee

Co-Chairs

Jan and Tom Hazlett
Patty and Bob Reece

Members

Vickie Burke
Judy Chiss
Louis English
Anne Gilford
Gus Granchalek
Colleen Houlahan
Rose Johnson
Carolyn Kent
Marian Kurz
Bruce Mitchell
Dino Robinson
Gerri Sizemore
Mark Tendam
Laurie Vree

125th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

JANUARY,
2010

"Back (And) To The Future" - Saturday, January 23, 2010, 6:00 pm

A gala event to kick off the Anniversary year, celebrating the history and impact on youth for more than a century. The event will benefit all youth programs at the McGaw YMCA and recognize adult mentors and guides from our youth programs. Featured will be the debut showing of a special 125th Anniversary film.

MARCH

Brillianteen Alumni Revue - Saturday, March 13, 2010, 6:30 pm

Alumni from across six decades of Brillianteen will perform their song and dance numbers from Brillianteen's popular shows. Well-known opera singer and Brillianteen alum Nancy Gustafson is scheduled to perform.

APRIL

Healthy Kids' Day - Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

A fun event open to the community to emphasize the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

MAY

"Unforgettable" - Emerson Street Branch Event - Saturday, May 22, 2010, 6:00 pm

Dinner and dancing at the McGaw YMCA to remember, celebrate, and embrace the strong and important history of the Emerson Street Branch YMCA and its influence in the Evanston community. Individuals who were significantly impacted and made a significant impact at the Emerson Branch will be honored.

JUNE

Annual Meeting - Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 7:00 pm

The official 125th Annual Meeting of the McGaw YMCA with special guests, special recognition and memories presented.

JULY

Y Club Reunion - Friday, July 2, 2010, 7:00 pm

Six decades of Y Clubs program participants will gather together at the McGaw YMCA. Join fellow Y Club alumni for a fun-filled evening of reminiscences.

4th of July Parade - Sunday, July 4, 2010

March with us as we make a special appearance in the annual 4th of July parade.

Youth Triathlon - Date To Be Determined

The 2nd annual Youth Triathlon represents the YMCA's enduring focus on inspiring youth to achieve their goals.

AUGUST

Golf and Tennis Outing - August 9, 2010, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Held at the Winnetka Golf Club & the A.C. Nielson Tennis Center, this golf and tennis outing will include a reunion of Adventure Guides (formerly Indian Guides and Princesses) and will be followed by a joint dinner. The event will benefit McGaw YMCA youth programs.

SEPTEMBER

Northwestern University Football Game - Tailgating Event - Saturday, Sept. 25

NOVEMBER

Official Anniversary Date - Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 3:00 pm

Join us at the YMCA and celebrate with a birthday cake and special recognition of the day the YMCA was founded in Evanston.

DECEMBER

International Family Festival - Saturday, December 11, 2010, 10 am - 2 pm

For over 15 years, International Family Festival has encouraged children and their families from different cultures and backgrounds to learn about the holiday traditions practiced by families around the world.

Camp Echo Reunion - Sunday, December 26, 2010

Reunite with other Echo enthusiasts and alumni during this Echo reunion at Prairie Moon, in the 87th season at Ryerson Long Lake.

JANUARY,
2011

125th Anniversary Closing Gala - January 22, 2011, 6:00 pm

The event of all events to celebrate the culmination of the 125th Anniversary year. Join hundreds of others to close out 125 Years Strong.

PREMIER SPONSORS



Find us on Facebook!

125anniversary@mcgawymca.org

McGaw YMCA 1000 Grove Street Evanston, IL 60201 847.475.7400 www.mcgawymca.org

A History of Strength Through Community

