

# Y-LINK



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SUMMER 2011

## Y SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE OFF TO A TERRIFIC START FOR KIDS IT APPEARS TO BE A RECORD-SETTING SUMMER

It's summertime...the numbers are in, and the news is good.

YMCA of Greater Cleveland Summer Sports Camps have shown an approximate 40 percent increase in enrollment over 2010.

And continued growth is expected.

"This year, we took a very active approach to our programming," said Regional Program Director/Operations Cory Wonner. "We wanted to make sure that we were doing sports specific skills all week long. We also recruited staff and counselors who have excellent qualifications and strong sports backgrounds."

According to Wonner, for those who participate, YMCA of Greater Cleveland Summer Sports Camp is sheer fun.

"It definitely is a fun environment to be in," he said. "We've taken a games approach, which is huge for us. Immediately after learning a specific skill, our campers play a game to use that skill. It really reinforces what they are learning."

Numbers are also up in the area of YMCA Licensed Full-Day Summer Day Camp.

Summer Camp registrations are up by 10 percent from 2010.

YMCA of Greater Cleveland Licensed Child Care Director of Operations Amanda Showman said the program continues to be highly sought after by local parents.

The addition of two new sites this summer is a plus.



North Royalton Y Counselor Mandi Finelli leads participants to lunch and indoor activities.

"People pick us because we have reputable, high quality programs at a reasonable price," Showman said.



Counselor Olivia Gardner gets a hug from Julia Ribbins in the Downtown Y gym.

The Y Summer Day Camp program has two new sites this summer: Divinity Lutheran Church in Parma Heights, and Chagrin Falls Intermediate School in Chagrin Falls.

Another new summer feature are teen travel camps for kids ages 13-15 at both the Hillcrest and Lakewood Family YMCA branches.

And yet another something new this year: each camper gets a free swim lesson during the first five weeks of the 10-week camp, Showman said.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE Y AIDS INNER CITY STUDENTS

A \$45,000 gift from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation will finance five free fitness clinics for students in the **We Run This City Youth Marathon Program**.

The clinics ran March 4 through April 29 and introduced student runners to options such as healthy eating tips to compliment their preparation and participation in the May 15 Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon.



L-R: Tara Taylor, Director, We Run This City Youth Marathon Program; Katie Heenan, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation; Glenn Haley, CEO of the Greater Cleveland Y and Susan Smith, Sales Account Executive, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

## YMCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND

**MISSION:** To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**VISION:** To be the premier community-based, charitable organization that embraces collaborations to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

**VALUES:** The character development core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility will guide all our interactions and decisions.

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Ground was broken recently for the Warrensville Heights Family YMCA (left), and the North Royalton Family YMCA (right). Both facilities will open in late spring 2012.

## GROUND BROKEN FOR TWO NEW FULL-SERVICE YMCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND BRANCHES: WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS AND NORTH ROYALTON

Two new YMCA of Greater Cleveland branches have come one step closer to reality.

Ground was broken May 2 for a new Warrensville Heights Family YMCA, to be located at 4433 Northfield Road, and on May 6 for a new North Royalton Family YMCA at 11409 State Road.

Both branches will open in late spring 2012.

Warrensville Heights Economic Development Director Bradley Sellers calls the location “the epicenter of the community” and says it’s something the community needs.

“This partnership (between the city and the Greater Cleveland Y) is the proverbial win-win situation for everyone,” says Sellers.

Sellers calls the project “the realization of a ten-year dream,” noting that the land was purchased 10 years ago.

Sellers retired from the NBA in 1993 and played overseas until 2000, when he joined the Warrensville Heights city administration.

“It will be a home away from home,” said Sellers.

North Royalton Mayor Robert Stefanik and his administration are partnering with the Y of Greater Cleveland to renovate the former Avalon Event Center on State Road and turn it into the new North Royalton Family YMCA.

“It has been the missing puzzle piece for North Royalton,” said Stefanik. “I’m really excited about it, as is everyone I talk to. It’s been one of my (personal) goals since I took office.”

The existing building will be retrofitted to house a new pool, gymnasium, workout areas and exercise rooms.

## Y SUMMER PROGRAMS

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Eight-year-old Makayla McGraw of Brecksville is attending YMCA summer camp at the Downtown YMCA this summer. This is her third consecutive summer attending camp.

Take it from McGraw. Fun is the reason she keeps coming back. She said her favorite camp activity is swimming.

I passed the deep end test,” she said with a big smile. “I’m so excited.”

Registration for summer day camp officially closes on July 4. Summer Day Camp and Summer Sports Camp Programs run until August 19.

For more information, visit your neighborhood YMCA of Greater Cleveland branch or [www.clevelandymca.org](http://www.clevelandymca.org).



Everett Hood and Makayla McGraw work in the craft room.

## CLEVELAND YMCA PARTNERSHIP ON RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

A distinct partnership between the Y, the Center for Families and Children, Cuyahoga County's Office of Re-entry and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority has resulted in a new program for formerly incarcerated men.

The **Open Door program** offers individuals comprehensive case management, transitional housing and permanent housing placement with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, said Janet Schneider, Director of Operations for Y-Haven.

The Open Door program also provides the necessary wrap-around services in a safe housing unit. The Open Door Program was developed by Y-Haven, which assists homeless men, 18 years and older, to become self-sufficient and live free from drugs and alcohol.

Y-Haven provides transitional housing, recovery services, treatment for mental illness, educational training, vocational services and assistance with permanent housing placement. Y-Haven has the capacity to serve 133 homeless men.

While residents may be self-referred, most of the referrals come from the 2100 Lakeside Emergency Shelter. Y-Haven offers a continuum of care beginning with primary treatment for drug/alcohol dependency. When residents graduate from the primary counseling phase, their case managers focus their treatment plan on continuing care, relapse prevention, and appropriate education and training programs.

When residents complete necessary trainings they are placed in jobs or sheltered workshops. The final phase of the treatment plan is finding suitable permanent housing for our residents.

The Y-Haven program received HUD's 2005 Award of Excellence and HUD's 1993 Outstanding Performance Award for recognition of innovative use of Community Development Block Grant funds. Since 1993, Y-Haven has admitted 2,500 residents, and over 1,500 have successfully completed the program.

Y-Haven's high supervision ratio of 13:1 contributes greatly to the program's effectiveness and continued success. The Y-Haven program is certified biannually by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (ODADAS).



**The Open Door Re-Entry program is a partnership between the YMCA of Greater Cleveland and several other agencies, and is a program for formerly incarcerated men. A special Open Door Open House was held June 22.**

All Y-Haven staff are licensed by the State of Ohio to provide treatment services. It is free and open to men with no income. Last year, Schneider said, 159 men entered Y-Haven's residential program and an astounding 86 percent graduated from the 90-day primary treatment phase. One hundred percent of those with a mental health diagnosis or dual diagnosis received voluntary mental health treatment within one month.

According to Schneider, 113 men secured permanent housing as a result of the work of the program. Y-Haven also has a custodial employment training and placement program, the Green Team Custodial program, which began in 2006.

The Green Team, which consists of a ten week hands-on, comprehensive instructional program that teaches janitorial and floor technician skills. Persons served are assisted to locate work after completion of the program. The Green Team is being recognized as a very valuable service by many community corporations, civic leaders and the city at large. In 2010 40 men and women successfully graduated from the Green Team program, which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

CARF assists service providers in improving the quality of services, demonstrating value, and meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

## NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER IS ON BOARD

**Ali Syed**, who was most recently Vice President of Finance/Information Technology with the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington D.C., joined the YMCA of Greater Cleveland leadership team on Monday, June 6 as Chief Financial Officer.



Ali Syed

He comes to the YMCA of Greater Cleveland with more than 15 years experience in non-profit finance, and began his YMCA work as the Finance Director of the Lake Charles YMCA in 1992 (a \$2 million Association).

Prior to his Washington DC YMCA appointment, he served as the Chief Financial Officer of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati (a \$36 million Association).

His experiences range from overseeing complex joint ventures, handling facility construction projects, and dealing with infrastructure project management, to performing the due diligence associated with complex financial real estate deals and governmental contracts.

### YMCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND LEADERSHIP

**Glenn Haley**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**Ali Syed**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Maurice L. Horsey, III**  
Group Vice President

**Nichol Higdon**  
Vice President of Organizational Development/Human Resource Services

**Toni Kayumi**  
Vice President of Financial Development and Government Relations

**Rick Haase**  
Vice President of Marketing

## FIRST RIDGEWOOD Y “SENIOR PROM” BRINGS ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS TOGETHER

Neither **Sheila Kareha**, 84, nor **Chuck Jennings**, 88, had ever been to a prom before.

Right after high school, Jennings, a former Navy Seabee, (Construction Battalion member) was shipping off to Okinawa.

Kareha, a member of the British Navy, was serving her country in London at the same time, also in World War II.

But the pair, who both reside in Parma, made up for lost time at the June 3 event. They were among about 100 attendees at the first “Senior Prom,” held at the Ridgewood Family YMCA, 6840 Ridge Road.

“It’s better than Okinawa or London,” said Kareha with a great big smile, looking demure in a pale lemon sleeveless sheath. “At least we’re not being bombed.”

Jennings and Kareha met at the Ridgewood Y. Both are widowed, and since neither got to attend a prom as a teenager, they figured, why not attend one now?

“It’s a good thing,” Jennings said in a soft-spoken voice. He sported a vivid apricot colored shirt with a Western tie at the event, which was organized by Ridgewood Family YMCA Active Older Adults Coordinator **Jeanne Sutyak** and Ridgewood Volunteer Advisory Board President **Shawn Kata**.

Jennings has a longstanding history with the Ridgewood Y, his daughter, **Donna Jennings**, explained.

“He did maintenance work here for many years,” she said. She lives with her Father, and serves as his caregiver.

“This is proof that the Y is a fun place,” said Sutyak. “You can fulfill all your needs here...entertainment, travel, and health and wellness.”

**Frank Lovell** and his friend, **Winnie Vasek**, also both Parma residents, agreed wholeheartedly.

“We love it,” Lovell said. “We go dancing two or three times a week.” They both said they wouldn’t have missed the event.



Sheila Kareha and Chuck Jennings attended their first prom June 3 at the Ridgewood Family YMCA in Parma.

## GRANT WILL ALLOW Y TO OPERATE LORAIN CITY POOLS THIS SUMMER

A \$22,000 grant from the Nord Foundation will allow the Y to operate two Lorain city pools that would have remained closed this summer due to budget shortages.

Lorain’s Central Pool and Oakwood Pool will be open through August 19.

Oakwood Pool did not open in 2010 because of budget cutbacks in the city of Lorain; Central Pool was operated by the Y in 2010 with the help of a last-minute grant from Lorain National Bank.

Daily gate admission to the pool is \$3 for those 15 and under, and \$5 for those 16 and over. Children under age 3 are free of charge.

Pool passes and swim lesson registration will be held at City Hall on Saturday, June 4 and Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Swim lessons will be available at both locations and will accommodate children age 3 through 12 years of age. Each session will run for 2 weeks with 3

classes per week. The ratio for these swim lessons is one instructor to 4-6 children, depending on the swim abilities of the participants. Cost of the swim lessons is \$30 per session.

The Foundation has contributed more than \$80 million to nonprofit organizations in northern Ohio and selected regions of family interest.

Their focus throughout the past several years is helping projects with goals to strengthen families and public service.