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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# IMPACT UPDATE

B.R. RYALL YMCA of Northwestern DuPage County | March 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Imagine what our community would be like without the B.R. Ryall YMCA. For more than 100 years, the Y has been dedicated to strengthening the mind, body and spirit of all—for a stronger, healthier community. We've supported families and individuals in good times, as well as during some of the most challenging periods in our nation's history. We've been there to provide essential child care for young children, to keep families healthy, to engage kids for physical and mental growth through sports, to get seniors active and socializing, and much more. And as always, no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.

Despite these trying times, with your support, we will survive and flourish—and be here for the next 100 years to continue providing for families in need and making an impact in our community.

Please share our stories with others and encourage them to join the Y family.



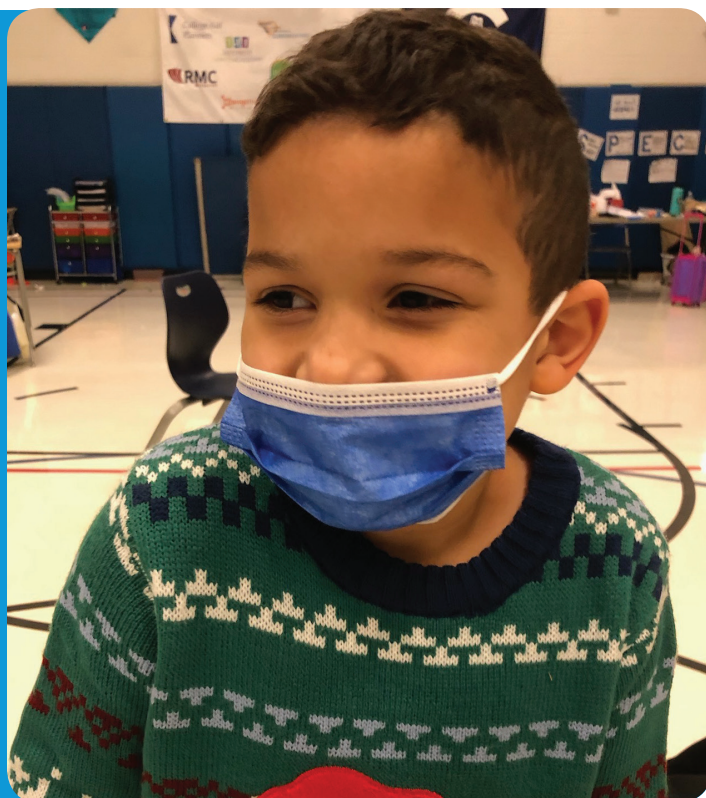
*Rob Wilkinson*  
Rob Wilkinson  
Chief Executive Officer  
B.R. Ryall YMCA

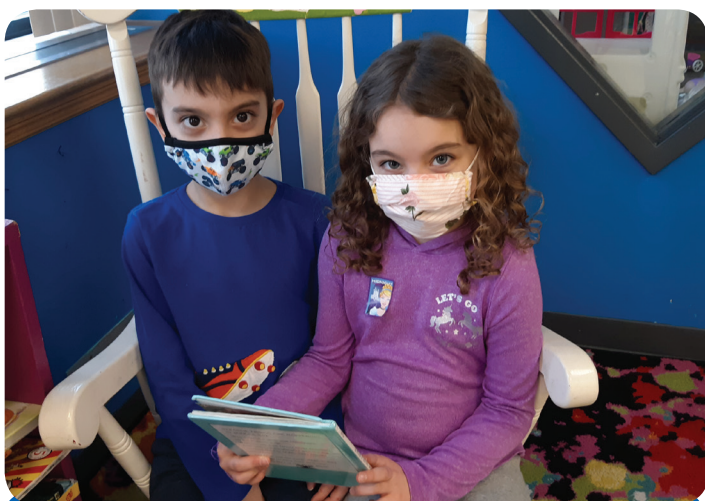
## PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND

Jennifer Leary came to the Y looking for safe and nurturing child care for her 7-year-old son Jayce. As a single parent who has endured many difficulties, Jennifer needed to feel confident that Jayce was receiving the most caring supervision available.

Thanks to the Y, Jennifer can go to work to provide for herself and her child—knowing he is safe, happy and having fun. Jennifer is thankful she found peace of mind and Jayce found stability, which was critical for them both, as well as finding comfort at the Y.

"I don't know what I'd do without the Y," Jennifer said. She truly appreciates everything the Y has done for her—not only by providing child care financial assistance, but also meals throughout the pandemic and at the holidays.





## CREATING ROUTINE AND NORMALCY

There is no question whether COVID-19 has had a disruptive impact on the lives of parents and children. While families were forced to face the new reality and associated challenges of juggling work, school and play at home, many found themselves overwhelmed. The time and energy required to complete their jobs and simultaneously supervise their children's elearning was not manageable.

During this crisis, the Y has focused on engaging elementary students for emotional stability, as well as continued growth and learning. By providing elearning opportunities for these young learners, we also provide a routine and sense of normalcy for all family members.

With the most stringent safety protocols in place, we are committed to keeping our students healthy, safe and actively learning in an nurturing environment.

Katy Zamparo shared, "It was a difficult decision to place my twins, Emma and Leo, in the Bright Beginnings Preschool Kindergarten Round Up program. There were so many unknowns, not much data about kids gathering, I thought maybe it would be safer to keep them home." She decided to put her trust in the Y. "I can tell you that it was 100% the right decision. They are safe, learning a lot and having fun. They love it and run to the door full of excitement when I drop them off."

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

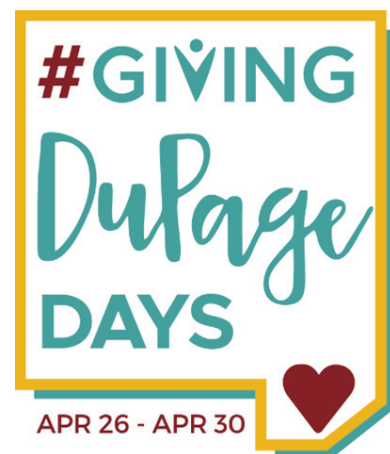
This past holiday season, together with our members, we focused on supporting members of our Y family in need of assistance.

In addition to selling more than 500 trees to raise money for our financial assistance fund, we were also able to ensure a happy holiday for families in need. Through our Angel Tree program, our members helped us fulfill the holiday wishes of 36 children—ensuring they woke up to find presents under their Christmas tree. We also provided Christmas trees to several families, and meal boxes with a delicious holiday meal for 100 neighbors in need—donated by Jewel-Osco.

Our members enthusiastically and generously responded to help. Misty O'Connell shared, "Our family loved participating in this wonderful program. Our children truly embraced this and wanted to make sure that the family we sponsored received all the things that they would want. We can't wait to help again!"

## GIVING DUPAGE DAYS

For five days this spring, an entire county will come together to send a resounding message of hope to local nonprofits. From April 26-30, Giving DuPage will connect individuals, families, businesses, schools, community and faith groups to celebrate and create awareness for participating charities—including the B.R. Ryall YMCA. The goal of this online fundraiser is to raise over \$300,000 for 100+ local nonprofit organizations serving DuPage County.



To support the B.R. Ryall YMCA by making a donation during Giving DuPage Days, April 26-30, visit [www.givingdupageday.org](http://www.givingdupageday.org) and type "B.R. Ryall YMCA" in the search bar at the top right side of the webpage.