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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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IMPACT UPDATE

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We had a great summer here at the Y! Campers enjoyed pool time and outdoor play, field trips, walks to parks, and more. Weekly themes were incorporated into games, sports, crafts, songs and enrichment activities—and enjoyed by more than 250 children. We loved seeing so many happy faces in the halls! And now that it's fall and students are back in school, we are serving more than 300 children in our before- and after-school program at six school sites and the Y.

The YMCA is more than summer camp, a place to play sports or work out. The Y is a gathering place where people feel welcomed and engaged. We love hearing about friendships that have occurred through

members meeting in our evidence-based health programs, group fitness classes, on a treadmill, or just walking in together at the same time every day. The Y brings people together. We want you to be a part of that energy by becoming involved and encouraging others to join or contribute to the YMCA.



Rob Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer
B.R. Ryall YMCA

COUNSELOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Tasia Goss appreciates the loving care, fun and influence of role models she had at the Y as a young child. She remembers the many good times and what her Y camp experiences meant to her. Now, as a Y staff member, she is making lasting impressions on the children who are her campers.

There is a certain trust that develops between the camper and counselor. Tasia, now 21 years old, has maintained contact with her fellow campers and counselors over the years because of the trusting relationships that they've developed. She says, "For me, positively building these relationships with my campers is so important."

At camp, learning happens on two levels. There are basic skills that campers are learning through daily activities—like how to do the backstroke when swimming. And then there are more advanced emotional and social skills that campers don't necessarily recognize, but will last them a lifetime—like how to cope with adversity and analyze possible outcomes. One of her campers said, "Tasia is nice to people when they are down. She always thinks of the best solutions for problems and helps us."



PLAYGROUND IS OPEN

We're excited to share that the new playground is open to our child care programs. This first-class resource is critical for our young learners' development—providing crucial physical, social and intellectual benefits. We now have a playground that matches the standards of our professional staff, quality curriculum and updated classrooms.

Thank you to our generous playground donors!

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We held our Golf Classic on September 13 at Prairie Landing Golf Club. More than 100 golfers participated and more than \$40,000 was raised to support the Y's Financial Assistance Fund—affording children and families in need access to the Y's programs and services at reduced or no cost. We are grateful to the sponsors, golfers, donors and event committee who made it possible!