



# IMPACT UPDATE

B.R. RYALL YMCA of Northwestern DuPage County | December 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Over the last year, we've gathered feedback from key stakeholders consisting of Y donors, organizational partners, community leaders and local business leaders. From our conversations, the key community needs identified were:

- Safe Spaces for Teens/ Teen Mental Health
- Affordable Quality Child Care
- A Welcoming Place for ALL in our Community
- Senior Health and Well-Being
- Community Health

Good news is we were chosen by Congressman Sean Casten as one of his 14 community projects submitted for federal funding. Our community project, which would help address the five community-identified needs, was included in the federal funding passed by the House Appropriations Committee, and now advances to the Senate floor for passage. We are grateful to the Congressman for his support, which could potentially result in up to \$2 million in federal funding for our Y. This will help us with needed updates within the building to improve ADA accessibility, promote socialization, foster connections and keep the Y relevant.

We've also received a DuPage Foundation Transformational Grant for \$253,000 to fund our teen mental health initiative (see complete article in this newsletter for more detail). We are excited to share the Milton Township 708 Board funding for \$41,000 that will go toward funding a shared social worker with Community Consolidated School District 89 and Glen Ellyn School District 41.

The Y is a place where everyone can come to grow, connect, and thrive in the midst of our daily lives and the challenges of today. Our history has required us to be both innovative and steadfast, creating and refining programs and services that meet our communities' most essential needs with fresh solutions.



Rob Wilkinson  
Chief Executive Officer

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



The impact of the B.R. Ryall YMCA is seen every day in the faces of our members, volunteers, program participants and staff. From their stories, we invite you to learn how together we are providing support to individuals in our community and changing lives.

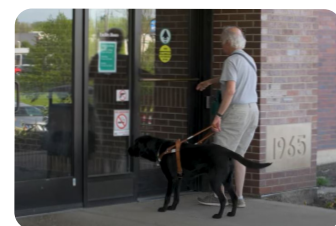
## MEET PAT AND ACORN

Pat's YMCA story began more than 30 years ago when he would bring his daughter to swim lessons, but in 2019 he reconnected with the YMCA in a new way.

While Pat was searching online for water aerobics classes, he discovered that the Y offered what he was looking for. Since rejoining, Pat has found more than a place to get fit; he found a welcoming, supportive and helpful community.

Pat has been blind all of his life and has spent the years overcoming many challenges and obstacles. Pat's dog Acorn accompanies him everywhere and is his safe and reliable travel companion. Pat and Acorn are now Y regulars. Pat says from the moment he walked in the front door he has found everyone to be helpful and continuously looking for ways to provide a great experience.

**We rely on your support. Thank you for keeping the B.R. Ryall YMCA and the community we serve in your mind and in your heart this year. Please visit us online at [www.brryallymca.org/donate](http://www.brryallymca.org/donate) to make a donation.**





## MAKING AN IMPACT

B.R. Ryall YMCA of Northwestern DuPage County has been awarded a \$253,000 transformational grant from the DuPage Community Transformation Partnership, established by the DuPage County Board and the DuPage Foundation, to support the YMCA's teen mental health initiative. The funds will allow the Y to partner with the Alive Center to bring an innovative and successful teen program to the community.

The Alive Center's Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ peer model is an after-school program aimed at improving youth mental health by fostering connections and building resilience. Their strategies, procedures and methods are proven to address 12 of the 15 stated protective factors of the Youth Mental Health First Aid USA training manual, intervening on mental health issues before they develop.

This type of programming is needed now more than ever. Depression rates among DuPage County teens are more than double compared to the national average.\* These are difficult times for all of us. We are so proud to be a chosen organization to improve the mental health of teenage students.

**We are in the process of raising funds to create a space for the teen mental health initiative. For more information on how to support this project please contact: Katie Sivak, Senior Director of Development at [ksivak@ryallymca.org](mailto:ksivak@ryallymca.org).**

\*According to results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 15.7% of adolescents aged 12-17 had a period of two weeks or longer in the past 12 months when they experienced a depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities.

## HOLE-IN-ONE EVENT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 23rd Annual Golf Classic, sponsored by AssuredPartners, on September 19. We are grateful to the sponsors, golfers, auction donors, committee and Prairie Landing Golf Course who made the event possible! Close to \$38,000 was raised at the event to benefit our teen mental health initiatives, as well as our financial assistance fund.

### THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

PRESENTING	AssuredPartners
DINNER	Jerry Haggerty Chevrolet
RAFFLE	Providence Bank
BEVERAGE CART	Glen Ellyn Bank & Trust
SIGNAGE	Allegra
EVENING COCKTAIL	Penny Belke, D.D.S. and Kathy Borello, D.D.S.
GOLF CART	Ball Horticultural Company
PUTTING GREEN	Meyers & Flowers
LUNCH	Berkshire Hathaway Home Services: Pattie Murray
DRIVING RANGE	Clingen, Callow & McClean LLC
EVENING MUSIC	The Hearing Doctors

