



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

December 1, 2020

Dear Friend,

A lot has changed at the Meriden-New Britain-Berlin YMCA over this past year, but our commitment has remained the same - to always be here for our community when people need us most, with open arms and caring hearts.

When the devastating effects of COVID-19 swept across the country and landed on our doorsteps, we quickly rallied to provide our community with essential services. Thanks to the unwavering support of our staff, members, volunteers, donors and community partners, our YMCA has been able to continue offering people a critical lifeline as we work to help our community recover and thrive.

The Meriden-New Britain-Berlin YMCA has met community needs by:

- Providing free emergency child care for first responders, health care workers and essential workers;
- Feeding families and individuals in need;
- Keeping our members healthy with virtual workouts, wellness tips and recipes;
- Engaging families with virtual game nights;
- Providing free virtual art, STEM and dance classes;
- Hosting a virtual sunrise Easter service;
- Housing close to 90 men in our Hart House Member-In-Residence Program;
- Offering a safe fun summer camp experience for over 400 kids per week;
- Providing our child care students approximately 3,000 meals per week;
- Keeping members active and healthy with indoor and outdoor group exercise classes;
- Providing before & after school programming, swim lessons, senior classes, sport leagues and youth programming;
- Implementing intensive cleaning protocols for the safety of our members and staff.

This year we were not able to host all of our normal fundraising events which are critical to serving our community mission. The need for your support is greater than ever. We're asking for your help with our **Forever Grateful Annual Support Campaign** so we can continue to support our neighbors and strengthen our community.

Together, we can provide child care for parents who need to go to work, a safe, nurturing space for kids to attend school remotely, housing for those who are homeless, outreach to seniors who are feeling isolated, opportunities for kids and adults to stay active, and holiday meals for our neighbors in need.

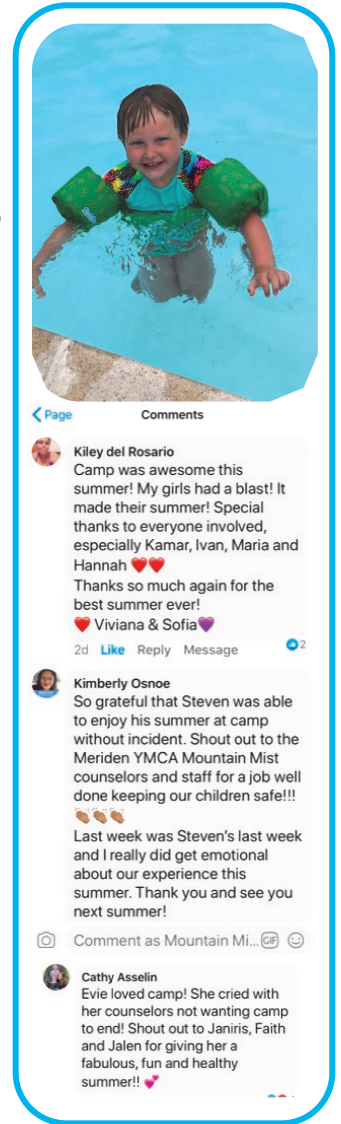
Strong communities are built by people who care about one another. Please support the Y.

Sincerely,

John Benigni, CEO, Meriden-New Britain-Berlin YMCA

Steve Markoja, Executive Branch Director, Meriden YMCA

Marci Moskal, Executive Branch Director, New Britain and Berlin YMCAs



MERIDEN-NEW BRITAIN-BERLIN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

MERIDEN YMCA
110 West Main Street
Meriden, CT 06451
203 235 6386
www.meridenymca.org
facebook.com/YMCA.Meriden

NEW BRITAIN YMCA
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BERLIN YMCA
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facebook.com/BerlinYMCA



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2020 Forever Grateful Annual Support Campaign

Every dollar you give helps kids, families and individuals in our community.

\$1,500 Gives a child a magical summer at Mountain Mist.

\$1,000 Provides two weeks of summer camp fun for 3 children.

\$750 Provides a month of preschool to prepare a child for success in school.

\$500 Allows 9 children to have life-saving swim lessons.

\$250 Gives 6 children a youth sports experience for active safe fun.

\$100 Brightens the holidays for 10 people with a holiday meal.

Every gift matters. Please make your contribution today. Complete the form below and send it in with your donation or contribute online at meridenymca.org/Support-Meriden-YMCA. If you are paying by check, please note Forever Grateful Annual Campaign in memo section and mail it to the Meriden YMCA, Attn: Annual Campaign, 110 West Main Street, Meriden, CT 06451. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pledge Amount: _____ Cash Check Credit Card

I wish to make my donation in honor of: _____

I wish to make my donation in memory of: _____

Type of Credit Card: (circle one) Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Our Y story begins with my son Josh. He started in YMCA child care at age one and is now 6 years old. His younger sister Lillian followed him through the same programs in the YMCA Infant and Toddler program and the Little Hounds preschool in South Meriden.

Our family loves the child care programs. The staff is really nice, everything runs smoothly, they communicate very well, and the programs are very interactive with families. The family activities have also been great such as Breakfast with Santa. Lilly followed Josh into Y child care, starting when she was eight weeks old. Both kids have grown so much, learned socialization and achieved so many milestones while in the YMCA programs.

This year the Mountain Mist summer camp counselors really brought out Josh's athletic and outgoing sides, and he even tried Skateboarding Camp. He is never bored at camp. They keep him busy all day and help get his energy out before he comes home. Josh loves playing gaga ball at camp and wants to play it all the time at home. He wants to be a camp counselor when he grows up.

Josh really enjoyed playing outdoor soccer at Mountain Mist this Fall and will be playing indoor soccer at the Y with his sister. Lilly also does gymnastics at the Y. As a parent, I always know my kids are well cared for and happy at the Y, whatever program they are in. I would highly recommend it.

The Baran/Virgulto Family