



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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157th Annual YMCA Dinner Honors Youth and Volunteers of the Year; Gold Key, Red Triangle and Stewart Partnership Awards

(Buffalo, NY) – YMCA Buffalo Niagara was pleased to host the **157th Annual Dinner held on Wednesday, May 6 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel**. This annual event gave the YMCA the opportunity to honor outstanding youth, community volunteers, and partnerships with organizations passionate about the YMCA and its mission. This year's theme was "*Imagine the Impact*" and showcased the many ways and the people that help the YMCA make an impact every day, not only on a personal level but also on our community. The event began at 5:30pm with cocktails, and was followed by a sit down dinner and awards program at 7:00pm. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Cropp, President and CEO of Independent Health.

A Youth of the Year and Branch Volunteer of the Year were also honored for all seven YMCA branch locations and YMCA Camp Weona. The Seymour H. Knox III Youth of the Year Award believes that each individual has the obligation and ability to contribute to the community in which he lives. His dedication to the community and the commitment to positive values serve as an extraordinary example to youth who show promise of becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Youth honorees included:

Youth of the Year Award Recipients: (pictured left to right)

Ricki Chen (Delaware Family Branch) (Kenmore)

Tierra Purdue (Ellicott-Masten Family Branch) (Buffalo)

Danielle Krezmein (Ken-Ton Family Branch) (Sanborn)

Matthew Merkle (Lancaster Family Branch) (Amherst)

Brian Ray (Niagara Falls Family Branch) (Niagara Falls)

Danielle Stevens (Northeast Family Branch) (Cheektowaga)

Zachary Dylak (Southtowns Family Branch) (Hamburg)

Gretchen Herb (YMCA Camp Weona) (Lewiston)

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Whether a policy maker, a fundraiser or a program assistant, YMCA volunteers play a vital role in the YMCA's growth and success. It is with heartfelt appreciation that we recognize nine outstanding branch volunteers for their tireless efforts and donations of time and talent. Volunteer honorees are as follows:

Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients: (pictured left to right)

Steve Nugent (Delaware family Branch) (Orchard Park)

Jackie Otis (Ellicott-Masten Family Branch) (Buffalo)

Sherill Nixon (Ken-Ton Family Branch) (Buffalo)

Tina Spyres (Lancaster Family Branch) (Lancaster)

Donald Burns (Niagara Falls Family Branch) (Youngstown)

Anne Taylor (Northeast Family Branch) (Williamsville)

Bonnie Jakubczak (Southtowns Family Branch) (West Seneca)

LuAnne Kingston (YMCA Camp Weona) (East Aurora)

Being presented with this year's **Red Triangle Award** was **Orchard Park Central School District**. The Red Triangle award goes to a special organization who embraces the YMCA's mission of helping individuals and families reach their fullest potential. For nearly two decades the Orchard Park Central School District and the Southtowns YMCA have helped parents make child care decisions with ease by providing convenient, safe and affordable before and after school care right within their child's school.

Today, 293 families are enrolled in YMCA School Age Child Care programs at Orchard Park's Eggert, Ellicott, South Davis, and Windom Elementary Schools. Parents rest a little easier knowing their children are spending their non school hours each day engaged in a well rounded program of healthy and educational activities while they are at work. And when summer vacation sets in, the district continues to play an important role in YMCA programming. Each year, Eggert Road Elementary School opens its doors to serve as the Southtowns YMCA's outdoor day camp rainy day facility. Parents rest assured that their campers have a safe, indoor environment to enjoy their camp activities on gloomy days.

The Orchard Park School District and the YMCA took their partnership one step further in recent years with the introduction of a Universal Pre-K program at the YMCA's Eggert Road pre-school facility. This free program provides children from low income families with access to the tools they need to confidently transition into kindergarten. **David Nielson, a member of the Orchard Park Board of Education accepted the award from William Collins, Chair of the YMCA Board of Trustees.**

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Being awarded this year's **Stewart Partnership Award** was **Buffalo Medical Group**. The Stewart Partnership award recognizes and thanks outstanding businesses and organizations that have joined forces with the YMCA to help achieve its mission of building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. The award was named in honor of Joseph and Sally Stewart, two longtime volunteer supporters of the YMCA.

Since 2005, YMCA Buffalo Niagara has benefited from Buffalo Medical Group's numerous donations of computer equipment. These donations have enabled the YMCA to upgrade all personal computers at its seven branches, two camps, and corporate offices making it possible for the YMCA to more efficiently record and manage registration, financial, and donor information.

In addition, it has enabled the YMCA to create an association information technology training center at its corporate offices and in turn, provide a central location in which to offer quality computer training to its staff.

These donations have also allowed for the creation of computer activity centers at the Ken-Ton, Delaware, and Ellicott-Masten branches, enabling these facilities to provide contemporary computer program venues for its youth participants. The cost associated with such technological upgrades would be prohibitive and otherwise unattainable in such a short period of time for the YMCA. **The award was presented to Kevin Waterman, Chief Information Officer for Buffalo Medical Group by Thomas Stewart, member of the YMCA Board of Trustees.**

YMCA Buffalo Niagara also awarded the prestigious **Gold Key Award to John Malloy** who is a retired managing partner formally of Deloitte and Touche. John initially came to know the YMCA while working as a managing partner with Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, the accounting firm who has conducted the YMCA's annual financial audit for more than 15 years. John and his firm went above and beyond the company's original scope of services to assist management through a complete overhaul of the YMCA's accounting and business systems that year.

John's commitment expanded significantly when he accepted a nomination to the Corporate Board of Directors in 1996. Throughout his board tenure, he lent his time and expertise to the fiscal management of the association as a member of both the Finance and Strategic Planning Committees. In 1998, he was elected to the Board of Trustees, serving as its treasurer from 2002 to today. After two years as a member of the Trustees Investment and Finance Committee, he graciously accepted the role of committee chair, a role which he also held from 2002 to 2007. His leadership and support proved invaluable to our management team in the development stages of the Southtowns Family Branch.

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Today, his commitment to the YMCA and vision for its future serves as a driving force behind the YMCA Endowment Development Program. As chair of the Endowment Advisory Committee, he has made planning for the YMCA's long term financial future a top priority for our YMCA today. Under his leadership, the YMCA established the Heritage Society which proudly inducted 19 charter members and five legacy members in September of 2007. As that number continues to grow, John can take great pride in knowing that he has helped to provide a solid foundation on which our YMCA's future will be based.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body. As a dynamic, charitable, community-based organization led by volunteers, YMCA Buffalo Niagara has been able to assist tens of thousands of youth, families, and senior citizens so that they can take part in YMCA membership programs.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara serves more than 100,000 people annually through its association of seven branches across Western New York and YMCA Resident Camp Weona. For more information on all of the programs the YMCA has to offer and our financial assistance program, please contact your local YMCA branch or visit us online at www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org.

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