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## YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO HEARTBEAT of the Community

annual Report 2024



### **Letter of Reflection**

### **Dear Friends and Supporters,**

At the YMCA of Central Ohio, our vision is bold and unwavering: strong communities where all people reach their full potential. This guiding belief shapes everything we do — from how we respond to urgent needs, to the way we build meaningful connections and create opportunities for every person who walks through our doors.

For 170 years, the YMCA has been a steady, trusted presence in Central Ohio, adapting to meet the needs of each new generation. Our community centers are the heartbeat of the neighborhoods we serve. They are places of belonging, connection and transformation — where neighbors support one another, and individuals find guidance on their journey toward improved health and well-being. **That heartbeat has never wavered, and it continues to grow stronger with every life we touch.** 

In 2024, we deepened our commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to the programs and services they need to thrive. As youth development experts, we empower young people to grow in confidence, character and leadership. Across every area of our work, we maximize accessibility so that families, seniors and marginalized populations can engage in the resources they need to live healthy, connected lives.

We believe:

- All families deserve access to high-quality, affordable child care.
- Whole-person health is built from the inside out spirit, mind and body.
- Safe, stable, affordable housing is essential to longterm security and well-being.

Because of our reach and deep roots, the YMCA of Central Ohio is uniquely positioned to address the most pressing issues facing our region: housing instability and homelessness, access to affordable and high-quality child care, safe spaces and programs for youth and teens and community health and well-being.

As we look to the future, we remain anchored in access, innovation and partnership. With your continued support, we will keep building stronger, thriving communities, where everyone has the opportunity to belong and where the YMCA continues to be the heartbeat of it all.

With gratitude and hope,

Tony Collins President & CEO



**Catherine Strauss** Chair, Board of Trustees

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## Community **Starts Here**

We're more than a gym! We are a cornerstone of the community, serving five generations every day and working alongside our neighbors to meet critical needs throughout Central Ohio. The YMCA is the original social enterprise, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that generates revenue through donations, programs and services to fund initiatives that build strong communities. Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility are the three pillars that guide the YMCA's intentional steps to empower young people, improve individual and community health and inspire action and change in our communities.

We believe strong communities are rooted in equity and belonging. We provide a safe and inclusive place for all individuals to achieve new goals, build relationships and find belonging. We are community!



### VISION

Strong communities where all people reach their full potential

### MISSION

To serve the whole community through programs expressing Judeo-Christian principles that build a healthy spirit, mind and body

### VALUES

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

## **Our Reach**

For 170 years, the YMCA has become a mainstay and pivotal force in Central Ohio, stepping forward to address the ever-changing needs of the growing communities we serve. Meeting individuals in their time of need and helping them is the core of the YMCA's mission.

With unwavering determination, the YMCA of Central Ohio drives transformational social change by strengthening communities. We have a regional scope with a local presence, serving as the heartbeat of 13 communities across five counties. Everything the YMCA of Central Ohio does aims to ensure health, well-being and opportunity for all. With our broad reach and diverse social services, the YMCA is uniquely positioned to connect individuals with resources to meet our communities' most critical needs.









### **HEALTH** & WELL-BEING



150,933 **INDIVIDUALS** Improved their health and well-being



2.21 M+ **VISITS TO YMCA COMMUNITY CENTERS** Fostered healthier lifestyles and habits





### **FINANCIAL** ASSISTANCE

Created opportunities of access to transformational services



489,697 **SNACKS & MEALS** Provided to support nutrition for

### **HOUSING & OUTREACH**



Received safe and stable emergency shelter and life-changing housing and outreach services

EMERGENCY SHELTER



Provided stability for neighbors experiencing homelessness





### YOUTH **DEVELOPMENT**



over 2,000 children and families





Engaged in programs that build social-emotional intelligence, critical thinking and leadership skills



### 5.000+ **WORKING FAMILIES**

Accessed affordable, high-guality child care, gaining peace of mind while participating in the work force

## INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES & SENIORS



PERMANENT **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS** 

Offered housing stability and hope for neighbors facing difficult times

# STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

## **The YMCA Difference**

### **SERVING & CONNECTING FIVE GENERATIONS**

From infants to seniors, the YMCA is a place where generations come together. We are the center of community, serving five generations every day.

### NATIONAL LEADER & EXPERT **IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The YMCA is the largest provider of child care and youth development programs in the region with proven outcomes of achievement, relationship and belonging.

### **BELONGING &** ACCESSIBILITY

We design programs for all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Financial assistance, secured through donations, ensures that no one is turned away.

### **BEYOND OUR WALLS**

The YMCA goes beyond fitness. We address critical community needs, such as child care, early education, chronic disease, food security, shelter and housing.

### **TRUSTED COMMUNITY** PARTNER

5

With a legacy of strengthening communities, we collaborate with schools, businesses and local governments to create positive impact and drive longlasting change.

## **OVER \$1.3** MILLION **IN FINANCIAL** ASSISTANCE

Awarded to individuals across our community — helping families overcome barriers and access life-changing opportunities

### FORWARD-THINKING

The YMCA is more than its history; it's a vision for the future. We embrace innovation to meet emerging challenges. We are here to meet your needs today and tomorrow.



### NATIONAL LEADER IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## Where Kids Become Successful **Learners & Families Thrive**

At the YMCA of Central Ohio. we believe strong families are the foundation for strong communities. That's why we're committed to walking alongside families through every stage of their journey and nurturing the potential of every child, from infants to teens and all the years in between.

The YMCA is an expert in Youth Development programming and the largest child care provider across the region. The breadth and depth of the YMCA's Youth Development programs span across school district

partners, community centers and inhome social services.

#### Academic Success

We know access to resources during the early years of a child's life is fundamental to their education and well-being. Through the YMCA's youth development programs, children and families can build healthy habits early on, staying active together and establishing the building blocks of healthy futures.

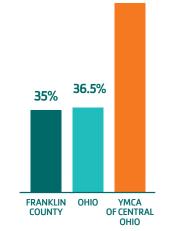
Our Youth Development programs build the foundational blocks for

lifelong learning, health, positivity and critical thinking. Whether it's early learners discovering the world in our child care centers. kids gaining confidence and skills in swim lessons or teens finding belonging in our Teen Leaders programs, the YMCA creates safe, welcoming spaces where every child can grow, learn and thrive inside and outside of the classroom.

#### Serving Current & Future Workforce

From parent-child activities that strengthen bonds to wraparound support for working caregivers, the

### 90.5%



90.5% of children in YMCA early learning programs are scoring kindergarten-ready when they enter school

YMCA is a trusted partner in family life. On average, we serve more than 5,000 working families annually so parents and caregivers can have peace of mind while participating in the workforce.

Limited access to youth programs exists throughout areas in our region that are under-resourced or for families experiencing hardship in some way. The YMCA believes that comprehensive. quality early learning and school-age child care are instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty and preparing the future workforce. We meet families where they are — offering financial assistance to ensure all families have access to our high-quality, top-rated programs.

With the support of our partner and investor, Battelle, STEM education is embedded into many of these programs, bridging achievement gaps in schools and building career pathways in underserved communities. Programs like Early Intervention and Stable Families help families who need extra learning support, addressing challenges and providing critical resources early on to pave a new path to educational attainment. Because every child deserves the chance to flourish, no matter their circumstances.



## **Cultivating Belonging:** Shamiyah's Y-Club Experience

When Shamiyah first walked into Y-Club at Parkmoor Elementary, she was quiet, sticking close to familiar friends and her Y-Club teacher. The new environment and unfamiliar faces felt overwhelming. But over time, something shifted.

"My co-teacher and I focused on building a trusting bond with Shamiyah," said Miss Shalonda, the Y–Club's director. "We gently encouraged her to step outside her comfort zone and connect with the other kids."

Using emotion-based games and small group activities, the Y-Club team creates a safe, welcoming space where kids like Shamiyah can express themselves and learn they're not alone. Months later, she's thriving. She now greets others with confidence, laughs with her friends and welcomes new participants so they also feel right at home.

"As a parent, I just felt like it was a very safe environment for my daughter," said Shamiyah's mom, Lynchelle. "It meant a lot to know she was right there in the school, I didn't have to worry about anyone transporting her."

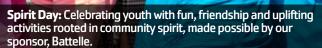
Lynchelle, a former child care professional herself, saw how Y-Club helped her daughter open up in ways she hadn't before. "She's always been the quiet kid," she said. "But in Y-Club, she became more active. It gave her the space to really grow and be her own little person."

This transformation didn't happen by accident. It's the result of intentional care and expertise the YMCA brings to every child it serves. We are youth development experts, trained to recognize what each child needs and support them as they grow into their best selves.

For Shamiyah, Y–Club has become a place where she feels confident and connected beyond the school day. And for her mom, it's more than convenient child care; Y-Club is a space of belonging where her daughter is seen, supported and safe.

"I think Y-Club should be in all elementary schools," Lynchelle says. "The teachers are very helpful, and they create a safe, warming environment for the children."







Naturalization Ceremony at North YMCA: Honoring new U.S. citizens with a heartfelt celebration of belonging, thanks to support from our partner American Electric Power Foundation.

## **Community in Action**



Workforce Development: Honored to be highlighted in Columbus Business First for empowering workforce growth and opportunity.



**COHHIO Affordable Housing Roundtable:** The YMCA joined Congressman Mike Carey and other community partners for a solution-focused discussion.

Eldon & Elsie Ward Family YMCA playground ribbon cutting: Thanks to the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation for creating fun and future memories.



Healthy Kids Day: Families gathered at YMCA Community Centers across Central Ohio for a day of wellness, play and healthy living.



Van Buren Center Emergency Shelter Holiday Celebration: Over 1,000 toys were donated to kids with the help of our volunteers.

Outdoor Inclusive Adventures: A joyful day outdoors celebrating all abilities through inclusive and engaging activities, in partnership with Franklin County Metro Parks.



STEM & Mentorship at Hilltop YMCA from OSU Rocket Club: YMCA Teen Club participants enjoyed a hands-on experience.



Youth Development Partners Breakfast: Recognizing partners who make lasting impact possible in youth programs and beyond.

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### SERVING FIVE GENERATIONS

## From Fitness to Friendship — For Every Ability, Every Journey

At the YMCA of Central Ohio, we believe that well-being is a lifelong journey, and that it's never too early or too late to invest in your health. Through our community centers, we create a space for all people to be active, improve their health and stay engaged with their community, no matter their age or stage of life.

Across our YMCAs, five generations gather every day with different goals but a shared sense of purpose, united by the desire to grow stronger, live healthier and stay connected. Our programs and spaces are designed to welcome and support people of all

### 160,933 **INDIVIDUALS**

Improved their health and well-being through membership at YMCA **Community Centers**, visiting our centers over 2.21 million times

ages — from infants just beginning their journey to active older adults who are continuing theirs with vitality and purpose.

You will find a grandparent in a water fitness class next to a teenager training for their first sport. A new parent easing back into exercise while their child learns to swim. Whatever brings you through our doors, you belong.

### Across five generations, our impact spans:

- Infants and toddlers taking their first swim lessons, learning safety and confidence alongside caregivers.
- Youth and teens discovering who they are through sports, summer camps, academic support and mentorship.
- Young adults building healthy habits, gaining strength and

## 44,803 **OLDER ADULTS**

community and improved their quality of life at YMCA **Community Centers across** 

staving connected.

Seniors staying active,

their quality of life.

No matter the neighborhood

or need, our commitment to

Parents and working adults

preventing and maintaining

accessibility ensures all ages across

Central Ohio can find community,

options for in-person, virtual and

adaptive programs, the Y's reach

extends to wherever our neighbors

with healthcare providers and key

programs like SilverSneakers®, we

make it possible for more individuals

to access the resources they need to

live well — for life.

need us most. Through partnerships

support and strength at the Y. With

locations throughout the region and

finding community, balance and

wellness through programs that

meet their needs and schedules.

chronic diseases and improving

## of Impact

For Lillian, the YMCA is more than a community center — it's where multiple generations in her family find purpose, connection and belonging.

Lillian's been a YMCA member for almost five years. Originally from New York and formerly in the Peace Corps, Lillian moved to Columbus with her three children, recently encouraging her mom to become a Y member as well. "Now she's looking forward to finding her own community here," Lillian said.

Lillian teaches swim lessons at the Hilltop YMCA, working with everyone from six-month-olds in parent-child classes to adults in their 70s. "It's amazing to teach such a wide range of people," she said.

"One day, I'm helping four-year-olds learn butterfly, and the next, I'm showing adults how to hum to keep water out of their noses. It's such a joyful mix."

Her three kids are just as connected to the Y. Josephine, 11, swims on the Poseidons swim team, but jumps into



### **One Family: Five Generations**

every new sport she can. Jennifer, 7, has tried basketball, swimming and dance. And for Levi, 8, who has autism. the YMCA has been lifechanging.

"He used to shy away from people and hide," Lillian said. "But now he talks to others and keeps coming back. The Y has helped him grow so much." Levi's especially excited to join the chess club at the Reynoldsburg Community Center YMCA.

She added. "The YMCA is one of the only places that truly welcomes every generation. It's not just for kids or just for seniors; it's for all of us." That means Lillian's mother can build community, her son can thrive, her daughters can try countless sports and Lillian gets to be part of something bigger.

From swim parties and chess clubs to group fitness and lifelong friendships, the Y provides more than programs, serving five generations every day and offering a place of belonging for all people, of all ages.

## **HOUSING STABILITY Creating Access. Building Stability. Restoring Hope.**

**RAPID RE-HOUSING** SERVICES

### 1,585 **INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING** HOMELESSNESS

Received case management, financial assistance and support to exit shelters and return to stable housing

### **EMERGENCY SHELTER** SERVICES 4,194 **UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS** (INCLUDING 932 CHILDREN)

Found a safe space and a warm bed in our emergency shelter while on their path to stable housing

At the YMCA of Central Ohio. we believe everyone should have the essential resources required to meet their daily needs and the support to build what comes next. That's why we provide access to opportunities for all through critical programs that transform lives. walking alongside our community's most vulnerable neighbors with compassion, consistency and care.

The YMCA is committed to meeting our marginalized neighbors' most pressing challenges, starting with the most basic of human needs: food security, health services, shelter and housing and other resources essential to daily stability. These vital programs and services extend beyond our community centers and provide a lifeline to those who need us most.

Utilizing a Housing First approach, the YMCA addresses housing insecurity through essential programs that provide shelter, stability and long-term support.

Emergency Shelter: The Van **Buren Center Emergency Shelter** offers immediate, low-barrier access to individuals and

families facing homelessness. With a flexible capacity to serve 600-800 people nightly depending on the current need, it is one of the largest shelters in the region.

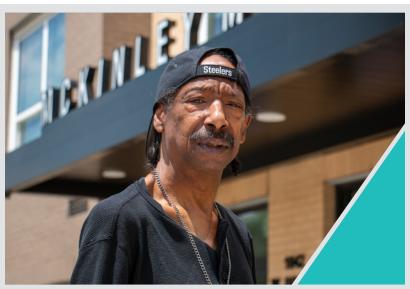
- Rapid Re-housing: Case managers prioritize getting permanent housing as quickly as possible and focus on housing stability and community connections. Support continues after housing is secured to ensure long-term stability.
- Permanent Supportive Housing: Combining affordable housing with critical support services, this national best practice helps the most vulnerable experiencing chronic homelessness and a mental and/ or physical disability achieve stability and independence.

Through the YMCA's housing and shelter programs, we serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness, navigating crises or facing gaps in support. We meet people at their most difficult moments and help them take the next step, providing not just shelter but dignity, stability and the opportunity to rebuild.

### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING 215 HOUSEHOLDS

Received affordable housing and supportive services, stabilizing the most vulnerable experiencing chronic homelessness and a disability

This includes delivering wraparound services that address the full picture: access to food, transportation, employment support, mental health support and case management. By bridging gaps in services and walking alongside each individual, we help people take steps toward greater self-sufficiency and spark longlasting change. With the support of our community and partners, the YMCA is not only a place to meet your needs, but a place to belong, to be seen and to start again.



## **Maximizing Accessibility To** Housing: James' Story

When James moved into the YMCA's Permanent Supportive Housing program in December 2022, he was starting over. After a battle with cancer that left him weighing 88 pounds, he found more than a roof over his head; he found home.

"The dudes here helped me when I was down," James said. "They'd ask me every day, 'You need something from the store?' They made sure I ate, got out of bed, kept my clothes clean. That meant a lot."

James lived at the Y's temporary housing site, a converted hotel off Route 161, before moving into the newly constructed McKinley Manor in January 2024. In fact, he was one of its first residents. New hardwood floors and natural light awaited him — perfect for his green thumb — along with plenty of wall space for his OSU flags, Steelers gear and framed guotes: "Leave the drama at your house; peace, love and respect live here."

That commitment to community led him to join the Resident Advisory Board, a group of residents who

meet monthly with YMCA staff to improve life and foster connection at McKinley Manor. After securing a grill, James proposed and personally funded a community cookout to coincide with his 66th birthday. "We're gonna bless the food, sit down, enjoy ourselves. I want it to feel like family," he said. "My son's coming to give free haircuts. I'm paying him, but it's free to them."

James focuses on paying compassion forward. "You never know what someone's going through. If we can help, that's a blessing," he said. Together, he and Miss Jessica, his lead case manager, are working toward his next goal: securing a house where he can host all his grandkids.

Still, no matter what, James knows he has a home at McKinley. That's why the YMCA works to maximize accessibility to housing and shelter, because all people deserve a safe, stable home. "This place, this community, it saved my life. And I'm grateful every single morning I wake up."



### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Jim Durham: The Heartbeat of North YMCA**

For nearly 50 years, Jim Durham has been the soul of the North YMCA, transforming lives through joyful service. What began as childhood dedication alongside his father as a Scout became a lifetime commitment: showing up at 6 a.m. to energize boot campers, welcoming new members and program participants, playing Santa for generations of families and quietly raising over \$1 million through his unique "friendraising" approach.

Jim's secret? He doesn't ask for donations; he shares stories. Whether rallying his Blue Jackets ticket group or rounding up member dues, he turns casual conversations into community investment. Sure, his impact is measurable — 20 years of service on the board, significant personal giving and

66 Jim loves the North Y and kids, so fundraising comes easy to him, maybe because he is a kid at heart!

### 99

**Debbie Brooks** 

North YMCA Advisory **Board Chair** 

more than 20,000 volunteer hours, but his legacy goes farther: the teen parents who found hope at Breakfast with Santa, the boot campers who became board volunteers and the funding of entire parking lot, all because Jim makes

people see the vision of building strong communities where all people reach their full potential.

Jim's not just raising money; he knows the people he's helping by name, even lending a hand at the front desk. Jim and his wife Nona have the fundraising superpower of connection. As North YMCA Advisory Board Chair, Debbie Brooks said, "Jim loves the North Y and kids, so fundraising comes easy to him, maybe because he is a kid at heart!" From Spider-Man costumes at Trunk-or-Treat to mentoring new leaders, Jim proves that philanthropy isn't about transactions but transformation.

In his words, "If people know the need, they'll meet it." For five decades, Jim has been that bridge; showing how one passionate storyteller can uplift an entire community.

## FY2024 Financial Reporting

Generating resources to strengthen communities where all people reach their full potential, the YMCA of Central Ohio is a responsible steward of public and private dollars. We secure multiple funding sources, including public resources with government entities and private partnerships with companies, individuals and families, to deliver our programs and sustain our impact.

**TOTAL REVENUE** 

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SUPPORT		PRO
Contributions	4,454,139	Youth
United Way	2,068,541	Healt
Fees and Grants from Government Services	29,432,412	Socia
Resident and Related Services	346,801	Head
Other (Interest Income, real./unreal. gains/ losses, sale of assets, misc)	1,500,560	
TOTAL	37,802,453	ALL
EARNED REVENUE		Supp
		Finar
Membership	16,549,477	Fund
Programs	11,136,313	Cent

11,136,313 Cer TOTAL 27,685,790 TOTAL REVENUE 65,488,243

## TOTAL REVENUE 65,488,243

These preliminary numbers reflect our year-end financials and are pending final audit Non Cash Depreciation 3,584,242 Net Cash Flow from Operations 4,716,714

An investment in the YMCA is an investment in the community. This includes membership, programs, child care, donations and volunteer service. Your involvement and support of the YMCA leads to a greater footprint of impact and transformation. Thank you to our dedicated staff, donors, members and volunteers for another year of tremendous impact across Central Ohio. Because of you, people experience connected communities.

### **TOTAL EXPENSE**

#### **ROGRAM EXPENSES**

TOTAL EXPENSE	64,355,771
TOTAL	8,114,673
ntral Ohio Youth Sports Collaboration	85,123
ndraising	648,820
ance Costs	613,688
oport Service to Programs	6,767,042
LOCATED EXPENSES	
TOTAL	56,241,098
ad Start	7,059,271
cial Responsibility	21,220,133
althy Living	6,226,873
uth Development	21,734,821

**NET INCOME/ CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** 1,132,472

## TOTAL EXPENSE 64,355,771

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## **Our Leadership**

### **BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Catherine Strauss Chair Managing Partner - Columbus Ice Miller LLP

Mark S. Slayman Immediate Past Chair Senior Vice President, Commercial Region Manager Huntington Bancshares Inc. **Christopher Clinton** Vice Chair President, OhioHealth Regional Market OhioHealth

Andy Priday Treasurer Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer Mount Carmel Health System



### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Dr. L. Shon Burch** Executive Director Resident Resources Network

**Tara Campbell** Vice President, Community Development Banking Fifth Third Bank

**David Cepek** Partner Capital City Advisors

Sherean Dudley Program Member

**Chad Frush** President & Owner Frush Consulting

Autumn Glover Senior Vice President, Provider + Community Partnerships AndHealth

### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

**Tony Collins** President & Chief Executive Officer

**Becky Ciminillo** Senior Vice President of Youth Development

**Erik Farley** Chief People, Equity & Inclusion Officer

**Jean Fry** Vice President of Membership & Programs

#### YMCA ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS

Nick Bates Hilltop YMCA **Troy Fowler** Eldon & Elsie Ward Family YMCA

Bob Baugher Reynoldsburg Community Center YMCA

**Debbie Brooks** North YMCA

David Cepek Gahanna/John E. Bickley YMCA Wesley Hall

Senior Vice President, Philanthrop & Education Battelle

**Darrin Haubert** Senior Financial Advisor Katterhenry Investment Group

**Todd M. Kegler** Partner – Business Practice Grou Mergers and Acquisitions Team BakerHostetler

**Melissa Laber** Community Volunteer

Jennifer MacKenzie Senior Vice President, Property & Casualty Marketing Nationwide Insurance

**Melissa Garver** Chief Development Officer

**Lolita Haverlock** Senior Vice President of Operations

**Elissa James** Vice President of People & Culture

**Garry Linn** Chief Operating Officer

**Greg Georgic** Liberty Township/Powell YMCA

**Chad Frush** 

Grove City YMCA

**Doug Hile** Hilliard/Ray Patch Family YMCA

ру	<b>John North</b> President, Commercial Lines Grange Insurance
	<b>Robert J. "Skip" Weiler, Jr.</b> President The Robert Weiler Company
ıp;	<b>Tim Wells</b> Vice President, Sales, Economic & Business Development American Electric Power
	Lorina Wise

Chief Human Resources Officer Nationwide Children's Hospital

Brad McCain Chief Financial Officer

**Melissa Sirak** Senior Vice President of Housing, Shelter & Social Responsibility

**Samantha Stewart** Vice President of Community Impact

> Kisha Swift Vice President of Marketing & Communications

**Jeff Hill** Delaware Community Center YMCA

**Bill Hughett** Whitehall Community Park YMCA

**Erika Konowalow** Pickaway County Family YMCA

Mary Menkedick Ionno YMCA Van Buren Center



To learn more about our impact, visit ymcacolumbus.org The YMCA of Central Ohio is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3).