

CARING, RESPECT, HONESTY, RESPONSIBILITY



The Y enhances the lives of our community members with wellbeing, community, and togetherness.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND YMCA

Donor Newsletter Fall 2023



Talk About Impact! We've Exceeded our Goals!

With support for our Annual Appeal from individuals, families, businesses and foundations, our MDI community Y exceeded our 2022-2023 campaign budgeted goal as well as our stretch goal totaling \$250,154 from 277 donors! The success of the philanthropic support from so many is a direct reflection of the value our community places on our Y. The Y makes our community better and those who support the annual campaign know this to be true!

Investing in the Y provides funding and access to opportunities such as Better Balance and Enhance Fitness for seniors, early education for children and many, many exercise, health and fitness classes for everyone. Heading into our Y's 125th anniversary year, the support shown confirms our mission and importance within this community for generations.

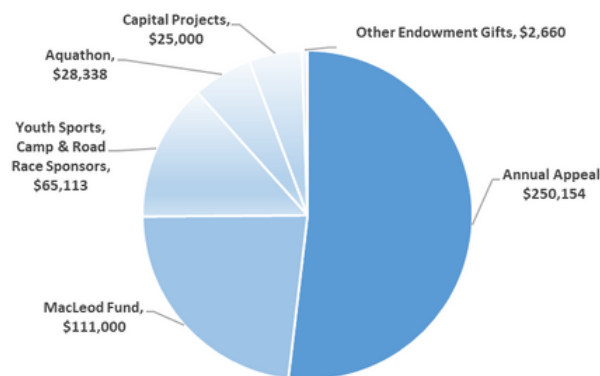
Unrestricted gifts to the annual campaign sustains the ongoing operations of the Y, and an additional \$232,111 of designated gifts supports the future of the Y through the endowment including donations directed toward special events – in total an incredible amount of \$482,265 allowing everyone in our shared community to have a chance to lead healthier lives.

Serving the communities of Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Trenton, and the outer islands, the Mount Desert Island Y continues to grow the quality and quantity of health and wellness programming, and plans are underway to invest in both deferred maintenance as well as repurposing spaces and possibly expansion!

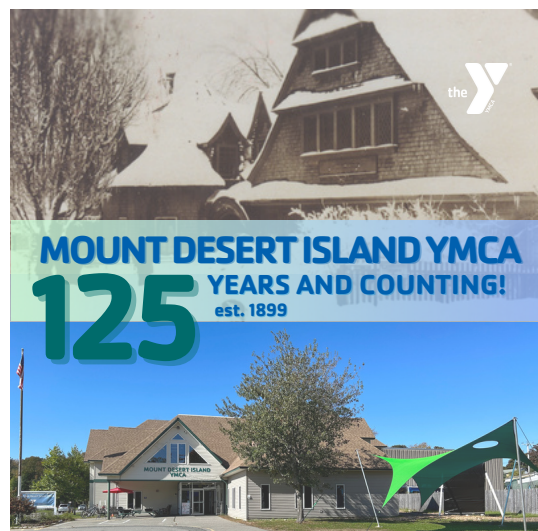
It's an exciting time to be a part of the Y. It's been said it's not the size of the gift that matters, it's the heart that went into it. Everyone belongs and everyone is welcome! We thank you for your generosity today, and the impact made!

Annual Appeal November 2023 125th Anniversary Edition

Happy 125th birthday to us! Established on September 26, 1899, the founders of our Y (Dorr, Lynam, Mears and others well-known within our Island community) sought to create "an educational, social, moral and benevolent" organization, which continues to proudly stand and works to sustain the well-being of all individuals and families. To celebrate, we are seeking to raise \$62,500 with a \$62,500 match to equal a total of \$125,000. Stay tuned for more news of the activities planned for this important celebration! (contact ann@mdiymca.org if you are interested in volunteering!)



2022-2023 Annual Fundraising Results





Planned Giving- Heritage Club

As we prepare to celebrate the 125th anniversary of this Y, we are constantly reminded of the generous contributions made by those upon whose shoulders this facility has been built.

The past was certainly on the minds of the members of our Heritage Club, who held this year's annual meeting at the Bar Harbor Historical Society's La Rochelle Mansion and Museum.

During the gathering, Y member Phil Norton recounted the role that the late John Reeves played in rallying the community behind the construction of a new facility for the Y, the building that the organization resides in today at 21 Park Street, after the roof of the old pool collapsed.

"At that time we had to decide whether we were going to repair or refurbish the old Y, which was an old, old building, or build a new building," Norton remembered, noting that the decision to build a brand new facility would require the group to raise over a million dollars.

"It was decided to go ahead and build a new Y and raise the funds as we went along ... and a very important person in leading us was John Reeves. Either he volunteered—or we appointed him—chairman of the steering committee and he was very good at doing it A lot of people had hands in making the effort a success, but John was our leader."

Members of the club reaffirmed their commitment to the MDI YMCA and vowed to continue the legacy of generosity shown by towering figures of the past such as Reeves who worked hard to ensure the Y would continue to thrive.

Upcoming Social Responsibility Events

Oct. 2023 - Halloween Costume Swap: Buying a brand new Halloween costume each and every year can be a real drain on a family's budget, not to mention the impact that disposing of the previous year's costume can have on the environment. To help keep last year's costumes out of the landfill, and to provide parents with a much more affordable option to procure a relatively new costume, we offer the swap from 10/16 - 10/29. Costumes are \$1 each and proceeds benefit the Ledgelawn Halloween fund.

Nov./Dec. 2023 - Toy Drive: Give the gift of joy this holiday season by donating a new, unwrapped, toy or gift. We are accepting toys from 11/1 - 12/8 after which the toys will be distributed to families in need through the Maine Seacoast Mission and the YWCA of Bar Harbor.

Member Stories

Meet Aaron



Aaron, a new member of our YMCA, has been flourishing in our afterschool program, learning and making plenty of friends. He has also started taking swimming lessons. "We see a lot of positive changes in him," said his mother, Sonia Mary. "I am sure meeting more kids at the Y is helping him. Thank you so much for your care of him."

Meet Ezra



Ezra is a mainstay at the Y, coming in almost every day to chat with the staff and workout. "I love coming to the Y because it's like we're all one big family," said Ezra. An avid treadmill and walking track walker, Ezra has recently started exercising in the pool on Thursday mornings. As a scholarship member at the Y, your donations help ensure that Ezra, and many others, can continue to take advantage of our facility to improve their wellbeing.

For a better us.®