



DONOR NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025



A DONOR REPORT FROM ANN TIKKANEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We have much good news to share with our donors! On July 17 our Y's Annual Fundraising Gala was held at the Bar Harbor Club and 260 people attended; it was a full house! The weather was beautiful and one and all enjoyed the outside refreshments and silent auction, then a buffet dinner and engaging and fun program. Longtime friends, neighbors, families and members joined together in a show of unwavering support for our community Y as crucial for our collective sense of belonging and health!

Keynote speaker Dr. Nirav Shah (former director of the Maine Center for Disease Control) was the highlight of the evening, as he spoke passionately about the power of strong communities, and third spaces like the Y "not quite home, not quite school, but vital to learning, growing and feeling like you belong." The Y's Community Advocate Award was presented to MDI Hospital CEO Chrissy Maguire, celebrating Chrissy's passion and commitment to public service and a desire to change people's lives for the better. The Y's Triangle Award, an honor representing the unity of spirit, mind, and body embodied by an individual for outstanding and long-standing leadership and dedication to advancing our community Y, was presented to Keating Pepper!

The Y's Annual Appeal totaled \$277,877, exceeding the goal of \$265,000. For the July 17 "Anchoring Our Community's Future" fundraising event, generous donations provided by individual and business sponsorships, a silent auction, and a paddle raise all in support of both scholarship funds and operations totaled \$112,079. What a tremendous show of financial support allowing for expanded programming, improved accessibility and increased community engagement!

More funds were raised for the two newest designated and invested funds namely the MacLeod Fund (dollars in support of free swim lessons for all five-year-old children) and the Jackson-Sullivan Fund (dollars in support of discounted fees for summer campers). The fund balances for each now totals \$225,258 and \$30,455, respectively. In summary, the funds raised from the philanthropic support of the entire community means everything to the families, adults and children who are in need of financial assistance. Know that the Y's mission will always be to not turn anyone away due to one's inability to pay.

It's been said "real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present". Thank you one and all for your deep care and kindness!

The Mount Desert Island YMCA is an inclusive, vibrant, multi-generational center, elevating out community's quality of life.

PLANNED GIVING – HERITAGE SOCIETY

On Sunday, August 17, the Mount Desert Island YMCA held its annual Heritage Society Luncheon at the historic Bar Harbor Historical Society. The gathering brought together visionary community members who have committed to planned legacy giving to support the YMCA's future and ensure a lasting impact. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon celebrating community and many lifelong friendships.

Ann Tikkanen, Mount Desert Island YMCA CEO introduced the speakers for the short program and thanked everyone for helping to preserve our island life for future generations.

Bar Harbor Historical Society President Dick Cough welcomed members to the LaRoche Mansion and reflected on the shared proud heritage and contributions made toward community development by so many. Mount Desert Island Hospital CEO Chrissi Maguire highlighted the shared values and strong partnership between the hospital and the Y as both organizations seek to provide high quality services that meet the needs of so many children and adults. Mount Desert Island YMCA Senior Program Director, Maegan Haney, provided a few examples of how our community Y is here for everyone – preschool child care, afterschool care, health and wellness exercises, and all in all, a place where everyone belongs, changes for the better, and feels welcomed.

Mount Desert Island YMCA Board President Steve Gurin spoke of special appreciation for those who include our community Y in their financial estate plans. All members were delighted when Steve introduced Senator George Mitchell. Senator Mitchell spoke of his personal appreciation for the Y's programs in service to the youth on the island including also the benefits of his own regular exercise at the Y. Everyone present was grateful for his remarks and deep care of the Mount Desert Island community.

To learn more about planned giving and how to join the Heritage Society, visit www.mdiymca.org, or Contact Ann at ann@mdiymca.org.



DONOR STORY: DEBBIE DYER, MDI CURATOR, HISTORIAN, AND AUTHOR

Debbie Dyer has watched the MDI YMCA grow and change over the years, from a space once limited to boys to the welcoming, multi-generational community center it is today.. It wasn't until I could bowl at the YMCA that I really became interested," she said with a smile.

A lifelong Bar Harbor resident, Debbie attended Bar Harbor High School, went to the YWCA for dances and Y-Teens, worked at the hospital, and spent 30 years as curator of the Bar Harbor Historical Society. She's seen firsthand how deeply the Y is integrated into life on Mount Desert Island, and how it brings together people of all ages and backgrounds.

"I started giving to the Y in the last few years to strengthen it for the next generations," she says. "Not only my generation, but the ones to come. If we could all be so inclined to donate to the Y, it would be there forever." Debbie sees her giving as part of a larger responsibility. "Everybody should realize what we have is great, but we have to maintain it. We're the caretakers now, and that's why Ann does the campaigns and keeps what we have in good working order for the next generation. Being historically minded, the YMCA will be swimming, walking the track (which I do!), and using the building in the next generation, and it's our turn to help!"

Debbie is proud to support a place that continues to bring the community together — yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



Debbie with her beloved dogs, Buffie (Pup-Pup) & Chelsea