



STRONGER TOGETHER

October
2026

YMCA of Metro North Donor Newsletter

GROWING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER

\$3,250,000 raised. Ten unforgettable years.
One extraordinary community behind it all.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Where in the World annual fundraiser, that \$3.25M represents so much more than dollars raised. It reflects your generosity, your belief in our mission, and your confidence in the YMCA's ability to deliver for our communities.

Since 2016, YMCA of Metro North members, donors, sponsors, staff, and partners have come together through our Where in the World celebration to create opportunities for children, strengthen families, support teens, and help ensure that everyone has access to the Y. The idea began during a brainstorming session with Cathy and Dave Gravel: what if guests had the chance to travel anywhere in the world for dinner? That became the event's original raffle prize, sending winners to destinations including Paris, Dublin, London, Madrid, and Ireland.

The trips have created wonderful memories that allowed winners to remember the Y as part of their adventure. But the greatest impact has always been here at home. Ten years on, we celebrate not only what we have raised, but what your support has made possible for the people we serve.

Gratefully,

Kathleen Walsh

2026 WHERE IN THE WORLD GALA RAISES OVER \$460K FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the tremendous support shown for the YMCA of Metro North at our Where in the World Gala, raising a historic \$460,000 to enable the youth that we serve to grow into the leaders of tomorrow. With over 250 guests in attendance, it was an inspiring evening filled with generous giving, connection building, and lucky winners. We were so proud to honor longtime Y advocate Stephen Hendrickson with the Community Compass Award and to celebrate with him, his family, and his friends. THANK YOU to everyone who made this night one to remember, especially our top Gala Sponsors!



PLATINUM SPONSORS

Dave & Cathy Gravel
Dr. Timothy & Nancy Johnson
Bruce & Tricia Herring



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

Charles & Martha Holden
Kathleen Walsh
Wakefield Investments



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ANNE MARIE GARCIA & NOLDEN JOHNSON

We are so deeply appreciative for the time, talent, and energy that our Gala Planning Committee provided over the past year to ensure this was the YMCA of Metro North's best gala yet! Thank you to Mary Bellavance, Colleen Bertolino, Shanna Cahalane, Lynda Connaughton, Anne Marie Garcia, Cathy Gravel, Martha Holden, Nolden Johnson, Susan Wornick, and Jennifer Marshall!

Special thanks to Anne Marie Garcia, Director of Business Development & Marketing at SV Design, and Nolden Johnson, In Good Taste - Fine Food & Wine, who lent their creative expertise - and several Saturday afternoons - to bringing our vision to life. Along with the committee, they made the gala's atmosphere nothing short of amazing. Their efforts and attention to detail, from the acorns on the tables to the mighty tree archways that guests entered through transformed the room and truly brought to life the gala's theme of growth and planting the seeds today for the success of tomorrow.



**SV
DESIGN**
Anne Marie Garcia
Director of Business
Development &
Marketing



Nolden Johnson
In Good Taste -
Fine Food & Wine
@ChefNolden



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: PM PEDIATRIC & NEW ENGLAND PREMIER SPORTSPLEX

This month, we're highlighting one long-time donor and one new: New England Premier Sportsplex and PM Pediatric Urgent Care.

Joe Yiakas, owner of New England Premier Sportsplex, has been a Y donor for years but went above and beyond last month by hosting a Charity Golf Tournament to benefit our YMCA! He joined our Board of Directors last year and his son Costas served on our new Golf Committee this year, adding their service to their support. We are so appreciative of their efforts on behalf of our mission!

We were so excited to welcome PM Pediatric Urgent Care as a new donor and partner last month to better support the health and wellness of the youth in our community! PM Pediatrics Urgent Care practices are designed exclusively for children and young adults. Their Saugus location is right down the road from our Y, so not only are they supporting our programs, but they're also providing peace of mind for our families knowing great care is just a few minutes away if needed. Come meet some of their staff at our upcoming road races and our gymnastics invitational.



FORE THE KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT BRINGS THE SUN AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual 41st Fore The Kids Golf Tournament - especially our Lead Sponsor TruNorth Bank and our Silver Sponsors below. It was a great day for our golfers and our YMCA, raising over \$115,000 to support our Youth Development programs!



CAMPERSHIPS ALLOW FOR THE BEST SUMMER EVER!

Summer 2026 was one of our best yet, with over 2,150 happy campers served! And thanks to the generous grant donors below and the donations made to our Send A Kid To Camp campaign, we were able to provide nearly \$96,000 in financial assistance "camperships" to help cover the enrollment costs for children who would have otherwise missed out due to financial constraints. Our summer camps provide crucial child care for working families during the summer months while school is out and enriching environments for youth to get outside and play, make new friends, challenge themselves, and keep their thinking skills sharp. THANK YOU to everyone who made this quintessential experience possible!

YOUR IMPACT, THEIR WORDS



"Camp has been amazing for our daughter. She left every day excited for the next day and enjoyed every minute." – Parent, Elani A.

"Such a great experience for kids and families, the counselors are FANTASTIC and the kids have a blast." – Parent, Sarah L.

"Camp Eastman has really helped Brian build confidence in himself – he has a sense of belonging because the staff makes sure every child is included and seen for their individuality and unique personalities. The all around unconditional caring for all of the children is immeasurable. Thank you to all of the staff! You are all very much appreciated!" – Parent, Kiana M.



L.L.Bean



LIVESTRONG & BE STRONG PROGRAM SUPPORT TO SHINE DURING CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, making this the perfect time to shout out our donors supporting the YMCA of Metro North's LIVESTRONG and BeSTRONG survivorship programs for adults who are living with, through, or beyond cancer. LIVESTRONG is a free, evidence-based, small-group exercise program that helps participants reclaim their health and wellness after treatment. The BeSTRONG program was launched this year for alumni of the LIVESTRONG program to be able to continue the healthy habits and social connections they've built after "graduating" from LIVESTRONG.



Donations made to the programs enable us to offer them at no cost to participants and to provide participants and a caregiver with free Y memberships for the 12-week program duration and a 20% discount on the participant's continued membership in perpetuity.



Thank you, Boston North Cancer Association and Melrose Coop Foundation, for your annual grant support which is critical to keeping these programs running! Thank you as well to all of the Strong Person Competition participants this summer for their peer-to-peer fundraising efforts to support the new BeStrong program, and to the sponsors of our upcoming LIVESTRONG at the Y 5k & Half Marathon on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 8:30am in Peabody's Lt. Ross Memorial Park. Your support provides more than programming – it provides hope.

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the upcoming 5k & Half Marathon.





Stronger Together Donor Newsletter

YMCA of Metro North
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SAVE THE DATES: 2026 EVENTS

- October 31st • Spooky Sprint 5k
Melrose Family YMCA
- November 5th • 20th Anniversary Celebration
Torigian Family YMCA
- November 21st • LIVESTRONG 5k & Half Marathon
Torigian Family YMCA
- December • Holiday Giving
Demakes Family YMCA

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THANK YOU TO OUR ROAD RACE SERIES SUPPORTERS

We have two more Road Races left for 2026 – the Spooky Sprint on, fittingly, Halloween, and the LIVESTRONG 5k and Half Marathon on Saturday, November 21st. Thank you to our Road Race Series sponsors below whose support not only makes our races possible, they support the many programs and services of our YMCA. Find out more about each race by scanning the QR codes below.

Spooky Sprint



LIVESTRONG



COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS SHOW CAMP SUPPORT IN ACTION



Thank you to everyone who attended our community luncheons this summer!

These events provide a special inside look at our summer camps in action and the impact of their support.



Attendees enjoyed lunch and performances by our campers and raised additional funds at our Torigian Family YMCA by sinking our President & CEO, Kathleen, and a very easygoing Nick D'Alleva from SoBol in our dunk tank!

