

# BOARD NEWSLETTER



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy  
Office of Rose Cushing, President & CEO

## November 2016 ★ Board of Directors Update

### TOT TROT AND YOUTH FUN RUN

Always a favorite event of staff and families, the Child Care Services Branch of the YMCA of MEWSA hosted the 8th Annual Tot Trot and Family Fun Run on Sunday, October 9th. Even though the weather was cold and rainy, that did not stop the enthusiasm of the competitors. The event was moved in to the Metuchen High School gym, and went off as planned.



This charity event, started in 2008, continues to help families who need financial assistance when they are unable to pay the full cost of childcare. The fund also provides aid to families in crisis and allows us to temporarily provide tuition assistance in the event of a family emergency. This year over \$7,000 was raised! The event is sponsored by Metuchen Savings Bank, JFK Medical Center, Kinder Pediatric, Expert Lawn Service, Boyt Drugs and many more.

There were 155 participants this year. The first set of races was held for children between the ages of 2-5. Races were organized by age group, with each age group running their own race. Following the Tot Trot was the Youth Fun Run for ages 6-12. All participants received a medal, t-shirt and gift bag.

There were also vendors, crafts and lots of activities including crafts, face painting, tattoos and a bouncy house for a day filled with fun for all.



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### 2016 AUDIT

The 2016 audit is underway. Mariam Lesnewski met with the Audit Committee on October 28th to review the Audit Schedule and Task List. The Audit Committee approved the above. Beginning in December, the auditor will start onsite work to begin the review of financials. The first draft of the audited financials is targeted for submission to the Audit Committee on March 24, 2017 for review and approval. Once approved, the auditors will present the audited financials to the Board at their April 26, 2017 meeting for review and approval.

## ROSE CUSHING BECOMES A GRANDMA!



On Friday, October 14, 2016 at 4:15 a.m., Rose Cushing became a grandmother for the very first time! Rose's daughter, Annie Klarich and her husband, Tim, welcomed their baby girl, **Grace Rosalie**, into the world! Grace Rosalie was born at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 8 ozs. and was 21.5 inches long. Congratulations to Rose and her family!



## BOARD CONDUCTS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Based on the recommendation of the YMCA Board Governance Committee, and with the assistance of Linda Schreiber, Resource Director for Y-USA, the Board of Directors conducted a self-assessment on Wednesday, October 26th. The purpose of a self-assessment is to evaluate a Board's strengths and weaknesses and create an Action Plan to address areas needing improvement. Having an effective, cause-drive Board with committed, engaged Board members strengthens the Y's position to further the mission for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

After a fun ice breaker, Linda Schreiber gave her PowerPoint presentation "*Building Strong Board Partnerships*", which focused on working within the three modes of governance leadership to make the best decisions: fiduciary, strategic and generative, and how to develop the most effective volunteer base for success using the six behavioral indicators of the YMCA outlined in the Board Leadership Competency Model. The Board chose two of the six competency indicators for discussion and self-evaluation, specifically, Inclusion and Functional Expertise. The Board broke into two focus groups and each group had an opportunity to discuss both competency indicators. Afterwards, group notes were shared and an open discussion followed giving Board members an opportunity to suggest ways on how to improve the effectiveness of the Board. The results of this meeting will be summarized and given to the Board Governance Committee, who will devise an Action Plan on how to best implement identified areas of improvement.

As Linda noted at the beginning of the evening, the YMCA of MEWSA has one of the most high-functioning Board of Directors that she has known in her 20+ year tenure with YMCAs. Rose also commended the Board for taking time out of their hectic schedules to attend the special focus group session and said that it is because of them that the Y is where it is, and that she is truly grateful to have such dedicated and professional Board members.

## STEM GRANT RECEIVED FOR SOUTH AMBOY

The YMCA recently received notification from PNC Bank that their grant application was approved for a STEM Program at South Amboy! The grant award is for \$7,500 and is for the implementation of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program for South Amboy's Ready...Set...Learn early education program. This program is geared for 2-4 year olds and focuses on Kindergarten readiness skills. The STEM Program will provide a wonderful opportunity for these young children to build problem-solving and analytical skills, increase career opportunities later in life, and increase a sense of belonging and relationships.

## BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" EVENT



*Nicole Miller, from the South Amboy YMCA and Debbie Wider, from the Edison YMCA sell passes to the Boscov's event.*

On October 18th, the YMCA participated in "Friends Helping Friends" event hosted by Boscov's. This event is an opportunity for non-profits such as the YMCA to raise funds by selling shopping passes for \$5.00 to be used on October 18th in any Boscov's Store. There were two pre-sale dates where the YMCA set up a table at the store to sell shopping passes and to

promote the programs and services of the YMCA. The YMCA had a table on the day of the event as well. The YMCA keeps the profits from the shopping passes sold and the purchaser gets a 25% discount shopping pass to most items in the store.

It was a great way to get the word out about the programs and services offered by the YMCA, while getting a head start on holiday shopping! This year the YMCA made almost \$400 in profits from this event.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN: THE BOARD'S ROLE

The board leads by example. Board participation in the annual campaign sends a message to all other donors and campaign volunteers that the leadership of the organization is 100% behind this important effort. A strong, effective board views philanthropy as one of its top priorities and is prepared to make meaningful personal gifts and actively participate in fundraising activities.

All board members are expected to give a meaningful annual gift according to their personal circumstances prior to the start of the other campaign components. During the board member solicitation, board members are asked personally for a gift in the way they should solicit others and are told how their leadership gift will help the Y impact critical community needs.

Individually, board members support annual campaign efforts by • making their own meaningful personal gift to the campaign • acting as ambassadors willing to share the Y's community impact and its need for charitable support and • serving in various leadership and campaign-support roles. The most successful campaigns have a true sense of board ownership for running a successful campaign and benefit from close collaboration among the board, the Y's CEO, and the campaign director.

## IN-FAMILY CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

The Annual Campaign has begun with the In Family Campaign Kick Off on October 15th! As part of this year's campaign, Katie has introduced a new initiative for giving: the Staff Hourly Club, whereby YMCA staff donate an equivalent of one hour of their salary per paycheck to the Annual Campaign. It is a great way to support the Annual Campaign and provides a meaningful impact in strengthening our community. Giving Tuesday is another initiative which is celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and where the Y connects with individuals, communities and organizations around the world for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. This event kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

*save the date*

The 2017 Campaign Kick-Off date is January 10th and will be held at the JFK Conference Center. This year's theme is Reach for the Stars!

## EDISON STUDENT PERFORMS IN MASTERCLASS

An Edison YMCA private music lesson student, Thomas Wang, had the privilege of being invited to play in a master-class for Mason Gross School of the Arts clarinet professor Dr. Maureen Hurd. The master-class was part of the Rutgers Woodwind Day event that took place on the Mason Gross School of the Arts campus at Rutgers University. Thomas was the youngest student to participate in the master-class. Dr. Hurd was very excited to learn about the private lesson program at the Edison YMCA, and was thrilled to have Thomas perform.

Thomas is a 2nd grader who has been taking private clarinet lessons with Edison YMCA music teacher Michelle Grondin-Gergich (pictured left) since July. He first learned about the clarinet when he participated in her Kindergarten



*Dr. Hurd and Thomas pictured above after the master-class*

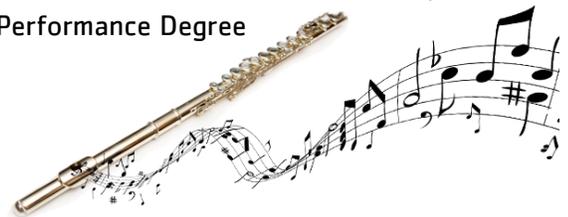
enrichment music classes at the Edison YMCA a few years ago. After begging his parents to let him play clarinet for an entire year, they finally signed him up for lessons this past summer.

Michelle Grondin-Gergich has wide-ranging experience as a flutist performer and teacher, conductor, clinician, and chamber music coach. Michelle holds a Master of Music Degree in Instrumental Conducting from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Music Performance Degree from the University of Minnesota.

Congratulations to Thomas and Michelle!



*-Contributed by Cindy O'Neill*



## EDISON VOLUNTEER RECEIVES AWARD

Prachi Patel, a 16-year-old student and YMCA volunteer, was presented with a Champion Award for Youth Development from the NJ YMCA State Alliance at their Recognition Celebration held on October 20th at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township.

Prachi received this award for having single-handedly created a Community Service Club for Teens called Junior InVision. Based on her belief in giving back to the community, Prachi recruits teens to offer their time and services to those in need. By coordinating the efforts of volunteers through her network, she ensures that the community is able to receive the diverse support they need to feel healthy, connected and secure. The Program helps teens gain leadership skills, learn more about their



community and the world, receive volunteer hours, network with others and show prospective colleges that they are committed individuals. Prachi is not just limiting her "vision" to the immediate community; she wants to help people in third world countries as well. Her first project is to collect school textbooks to send to indigent students in India.

Her dedication, sense of responsibility and deeply ingrained core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility mirror the mission statement of the YMCA. She is an inspiration and role model for teens everywhere, and the epitome of the word **CHAMPION**.



*Pictured l. to r.: Cindy O'Neill, Prachi Patel, Pratibha Katariya and Lisa Sanguiliano*

# SPOOKTACULAR FUN AT THE YMCA BRANCHES!

The Edison, Metuchen and South Amboy YMCA branches each hosted a Halloween party on Friday, October 28th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for children and their parents. The children wore their Halloween costumes and enjoyed contests and prizes, face painting, arts and crafts, the Bouncy House, and music and dancing. Refreshments such as pizza, cupcakes, cookies, water and soda were sold at the event. Many YMCA employees volunteered to help out for the evening's activities.



The evening was a great success at all three branches with 130 children at Edison, 105 children at South Amboy, and 250 at Metuchen!

The branches had some special activities planned as well. Metuchen had a "Unique Creatures NJ" demonstration with real live creepy crawlies, Edison had a "Mad Science" experiment table, spider races and an obstacle course, and South Amboy had a haunted house and carnival games with prizes. The common theme throughout, however, was... **"Spooktacular Fun!"**

# Happy Halloween

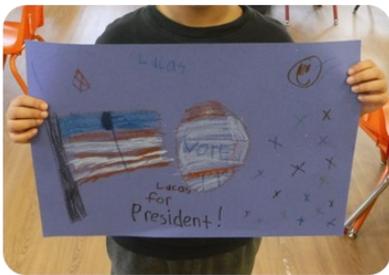


# METUCHEN NEWS

The Metuchen Branch (as well as the Edison and South Amboy branches) celebrated Lights On Afterschool on Thursday, October 20th. Lights On Afterschool is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Lights On Afterschool was launched in 2000 and the YMCA has been an active participant since its inception. Each year thousands of schools host events to bring attention and raise awareness to this important cause.

The symbol of Lights On Afterschool is the light bulb, symbolizing that there is always a light on for youth! To celebrate the event this year, the children drew and strung afterschool lights which were displayed in the hallways and as a colorful backdrop for the children's presentations during Lights On Afterschool!

-Submitted by Christine Tolley



The Kindergarten children at the Metuchen YMCA were influenced by the Zoe For President Campaign that was provided through the YMCA of the USA. Zoe is a 1-year-old toddler running for President. Zoe represents the potential

the Y sees in every child. And whether that's a teacher, firefighter or the next President of the United States, she's showing that with the Y's support, all kids have the opportunity to become their best selves.

The Metuchen Y Kindergarten children have been running their very own mock elections and have been voting on everything from what book to read during circle time to what snack they want to eat and even which classmate should be the next President. Thanks to Zoe, these children know that they can grow up to be anything they want to be!

-Submitted by Pam Cohen



The Metuchen YMCA staff had a *very creative* booth at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Metuchen Country Fair which took place on October 8th. The theme this year was *Classic Television*. Pictured above are **Pamela Cohen, Christine Tolley, Bradford Lindsey** and **Angelica Causing**, who did a great job decorating the booth and representing the YMCA!

-Submitted by Pam Cohen

## STAFFING UPDATE

**Charlyne Emmanuel** is the new Kindergarten Teacher at the Edison YMCA. She has a B.S. in Psychology from Saint Peter's University. She has been working with children for 9 years, including children with special needs. She previously worked at the YMCA-Five Points Branch in Union, New Jersey as a Head Teacher. Charlyne is a member of Cercle De L'amitie of New Jersey, a Haitian non-profit organization that promotes educational and charitable opportunities and functions for families residing in Union County as well as in Haiti. In her spare time, Charlyne enjoys listening to Bob Marley or DMB, meditating, attending poetry readings and historical events, and surrounding herself with family and friends. We know that Charlyne will be a great addition to our team!



**Atia Lee Hunter** is the new Director at the Grace Child Care Center in Perth Amboy. Born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, Atia comes from a long line of family in law enforcement, and received her BA in Sociology and Criminal Justice. However, while in school, she was offered a job at Abbott Childcare Center in Plainfield, NJ and decided that working with young children was her passion. Shortly after graduating, Atia started Early Childhood courses and obtained her P3 Certification at Bloomfield College and her Masters Degree in Education Curriculum/Instruction. Atia currently resides in North Plainfield with her husband and three sons. When not working, she loves to try different flavors of coffee, watch reruns of Grey's Anatomy, travel and spend time with her family. Atia is excited about her new role as Director and being a part of the YMCA family. Welcome, Atia!



### UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 30



DECEMBER 13



JANUARY 25



MARCH 22

(HOLIDAY CELEBRATION)

## HUMAN RESOURCES NETWORK CONFERENCE

The NJ YMCA State Alliance held a Human Resources Network Conference on October 28th at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. The morning training sessions included *All Together Better-The Many Dimensions of Diversity* which focused on enhancing staff and volunteer cultural competence, facilitating bridge building and encouragement engagement in diversity, inclusion and global work among all YMCA staff and volunteers, and *An Introduction to Gender Identity and Gender Expression* which focused on exploring issues relating to how spaces that are generally open to persons of a specific gender, should deal with people who are gender affirmed and/or gender diverse. The afternoon training sessions included *Employment Engagement-Using the RESPECT Model* which focused on learning how to embody the principles of respect in your organization and *Hot Topics in HR* which focused on how to be current and compliant on employment law, regulations and best practices in the workplace.

The YMCA staff that attended included Rose Cushing, Lisa Sanguiliano, Mariam Lesnewski, Rosemary Orlandini, Kathy Minaeff, Katie McAdoo, Lori Ricigliano, Beth Helsby, Marie Patterson, Cindy O'Neill, Erin Siemers, Nicole Miller, Kristine Rosko and Tom McCabe.

# UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

## NOVEMBER

November 4	<b>PROPERTY COMMITTEE</b> AO Conference Room	2:30 p.m.
November 10	<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> AO Conference Room	6:30 p.m.
November 18	<b>INVESTMENT COMMITTEE</b> AO Conference Room	8:00 a.m.
November 29	<b>FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> AO Conference Room	5:00 p.m.
November 29	<b>GIVING TUESDAY</b>	
November 30	<b>BOARD MEETING</b> Wernik Room	5:30 Fellowship 6:00 Board Meeting

## DECEMBER

December 2	<b>PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING</b> AO Conference Room	2:30 p.m.
December 6	<b>BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</b> AO Conference Room	5:30 p.m.
December 8	<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</b> AO Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
December 13	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</b> Novita Restaurant Bistro & Lounge	6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

