

Mission milestone leads to bright futures

Y IMPACT

LANCASTER FAMILY YMCA ASSOCIATION | LANCASTERYMCA.ORG
SUMMER 2016



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF LIGHT UP CAMP SHAND CAMPAIGN

New Climbing Tower and Ropes Course will help more kids build confidence.



YMCA Camp Shand is at the heart of the Lancaster Family YMCA's outreach to youth, and on June 2, Camp Shand celebrated a mission milestone in its vision to help more children build bright futures.

Camp Shand was founded in 1894 with 15 boys as the first campers. After moving to 3 different locations in its history, Camp Shand moved to its current site in Cornwall, PA in 1984.

Through the following years, the Y utilized the existing campgrounds as best as possible, but it became apparent that Camp Shand was in need of major upgrades to realize its full mission potential.

In 2007, a master plan for Camp Shand's future was created and the Light Up Camp Shand capital campaign was launched to support this plan.

This plan included several upgrades to the existing facilities and adding new facilities and features that would enable the Y to increase the number of youth served and the scope of programming offered to campers.

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As a nonprofit, charitable organization, the Lancaster Family YMCA is committed to improving the lives of children, adults and families through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility.

A NOTE FROM JEFF

It's summer, and this time of year brings the greatest opportunity for the Y to impact the lives of hundreds of children.

Our recently launched SPLASH programs teach children the water safety and swimming skills needed to stay safe and make the most of the season. And our camp programs, like those offered through YMCA Camp Shand, help close the learning achievement gap by keeping kids engaged in enrichment activities when school is not in session.

It's only through the charitable support of Y members like the Master Swimmers (see page 4), and people like you who are committed to making a difference in the community, that we can ensure these summer experiences are available to all children, regardless of their family's financial means.

Please read on to learn how we make summer at the Y a season of opportunity for so many youth.



Jeffrey S. Kenderdine
Lancaster Family YMCA
President & CEO

YMCA Celebrates Completion continued from page 1

After 8 years of renovations made possible through the support of donors, board members, Y staff and friends, the final element of the Light Up Camp Shand campaign – a new Climbing Tower and Ropes Course – was completed in May and a celebration ceremony was held on June 2.

The new Climbing Tower and Ropes Course has 9 different challenges including a zip line, and the design enables more children to use the course at one time.

The various challenge elements offered will help children build confidence by stretching beyond their comfort zones and they'll learn the value of teamwork in completing the challenges.

To close the celebration, Camp Shand camper Reed Smith, the 2015 Lancaster Family YMCA Youth of the Year, became our first camper to try out our new course and sail down the new zip line. Reed shouted "Camp Shand rocks" as he zipped along – we hope you agree!

CAMP SHAND MISSION IMPACT FACTS

During the Light up Camp Shand campaign years of 2008–2015

3795 individuals campers attended Camp Shand

70% of those campers received financial assistance from the Lancaster Family YMCA to be able to attend camp

The Y provided \$492,000 in financial assistance to campers during this time

CAMP SHAND RENOVATION EFFORTS – 2008–2015

- An environmentally friendly wastewater treatment plant and new shower facilities were built.
- Repairs to the existing dining hall were completed and a deck was added to expand dining space.
- Decks were added to the youth cabins.
- A new Leadership and Health Lodge was built; replacing the existing camp health clinic and administration building that was beyond repair. The new Lodge houses an improved health center, staff offices and a conference area.
- A major renovation of the existing recreation hall was completed. While the foundation and main footprint of the building remained intact, the interior of the building was rebuilt to create a more versatile and improved space that could be used year round. A deck was added to increase program space and the entrance was redesigned to be ADA compliant. The building was named the Gelhard Family Recreation and Education Center in honor of the generosity and support of Jim and Maxine Gelhard and their daughter Cynthia Gelhard.
- A new Climbing Tower and Ropes Course was built with the generous support of Joe and Marianne Nolt.



71% of the world is water. Children are 100% curious. The Y helps keep them safe.

Did you know that drowning is the second leading cause of death for children from 5-14 years old, and most drownings happen when the child is within 10 feet of safety and under adult supervision?

Swimming is one of those abilities we often take for granted. Every summer, kids look forward to jumping in the pool or playing in the ocean, yet many children haven't had the opportunity of learning to swim and cannot experience the water in the same way as other children.

With the launch of our SPLASH classes - based on the YMCA of the USA's Safety Around Water program - the Lancaster Family YMCA is helping more children learn critical water safety and swimming skills.

From February through April, SPLASH classes were offered at no cost to community families at our YMCA at New Holland branch, and with funding support from the Lancaster Recreation Commission, at our City Center Y branch. The Y worked in partnership with the ELANCO School District and the School District of Lancaster to help identify children who could benefit from the program and might otherwise lack the opportunity to participate in water safety and swimming classes.

A TYPICAL SESSION OF SPLASH INCLUDES:

- Water acclimation exercises to help kids adjust to being in water
- Instruction in "Jump, Push, Turn, Grab" and "Swim, Float, Swim," - skill sets kids can use if they unexpectedly find themselves in the water
- Specific safety topics, like what to do if you see someone in the water who needs help
- Fun activities that reinforce skills

In our initial SPLASH classes, the Y served 18 children at our YMCA at New Holland branch and 47 children at our City Center Y branch.



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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY IS OUR CAUSE.

YMCA MASTER SWIMMERS GO THE DISTANCE TO SEND KIDS TO CAMP SHAND THIS SUMMER



Please join our Master Swimmers in supporting the Y mission by giving to the Lancaster Family YMCA at lancasterymca.org/give.

Three times a week, you'll find Y members who form a Master Swimmers group swimming at the City Center Y. The group has been together for over 30 years and in addition to these regular swims, they've completed a number of 100x100 challenges (which involves 3 hours of swimming!). This year, they decided to do a 100x100 challenge as a fundraiser for YMCA Camp Shand, giving and collecting donations totaling nearly \$2,700! These funds enable the Y to provide financial scholarships for disadvantaged kids to attend a free week of camp this summer. The Master Swimmers felt passionate about the Camp Shand mission and experience, which provides many kids a first opportunity to get in a pool and learn to swim.