



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Celebrating 50 Years of Service
FARMINGTON FAMILY YMCA

PROGRAM

Welcome

Invocation

Lunch

Sponsored by

BOTSFORD
HOSPITAL

Farmington Past

50 Years of Serving our Community

Testimonial

Farmington Present

Farmington Future

Thank you

Post Lunch Reception



A MISSION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Although the history of the Farmington Y officially dates back to 1965, years of hard work and perseverance preceded its formal beginning. It was in 1962 that a small group of volunteers, led by then Assistant Superintendent of Farmington Public School District Marinus Van Ameyde, met with the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to establish a YMCA presence in the Farmington community.

Chuck Law, Vice President of Operations for the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit at the time, met with the volunteer group and decided to proceed with a community meeting to determine interest in establishing a YMCA in Farmington. A small article in the Farmington Observer about the meeting drew a standing-room-only crowd, and it was obvious that the Farmington community wanted a YMCA.



The Farmington YMCA was born as an extension, and programs to serve the Farmington community were conducted out of the Northwestern YMCA branch in Detroit. Chuck Wise, the Extension Director, worked with the volunteer committee in identifying community needs and bringing programs surrounding those needs to life. In 1964, Rose Berberian was hired as the first program director at the Farmington YMCA, and she touched the lives of countless individuals in the community through innovative programs such as swimming, day camp, sex education, judo, fencing and dance. It was also in 1964 that Norman Lawton, a generous supporter, donated a farmhouse for the Farmington Y to operate out of.

In 1965, the Farmington Family YMCA was officially recognized as a branch of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. A Board of Directors was organized and Dave Comfort became the first Executive Director. Building on this momentum, volunteer participation and community awareness increased dramatically.

The Y continued to serve more individuals in the Farmington community. In 1972, Gary Unruh became the Executive Director. Gary was responsible for creating a connection between the city, the schools and the Y. In that same year, the Farmington Y moved from the original farmhouse to an A-Frame, which to this day houses some of the branch's childcare operations .



In 1977, the Farmington Y set out to raise \$900,000 through a capital campaign for a new facility. At an open house prior to the grand opening, the Y sold 1,400 memberships. And on April 21, 1980, when the doors to the highly anticipated Farmington Family YMCA opened, 1,600 individuals from the community were in attendance.

Kevin Bush became the Executive Director of the Farmington Y in 1982. Under his leadership, both School Age Childcare and Preschool were established in partnership with the Farmington Public School district, and the aquatics program came to life. In fact, the Farmington Y was the first in the association to offer a handicap-accessible pool to its members. In 1997, the Michigan Stingray Swim Association merged with the Farmington YMCA Devil Rays and adopted the team's current name, the Farmington Family YMCA Stingrays. This swim team would go on to achieve great success at both the USA and YMCA levels of competitive swimming.



Rick Durei took the helm in 1998, and, as Executive Director, he helped expand the School Age Childcare program to 23 sites. Every day, 50-75 teenagers came to the Y to participate in enriching activities outside of school hours through a partnership with the City of Farmington Hills. In 2006, the Farmington Y launched Camp Riley, a summer camp for children enrolled in Farmington Public Schools to help reduce the effects of summer learning loss.

Laura Perlowski became the Executive Director in 2012 with a continued focus on meeting needs in the Farmington community. Today, under her leadership, the Y remains committed to promoting youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Farmington Y has 10,000 members; 4,000 of those members are seniors. Through its childcare programs, the Y runs a preschool onsite, and operates in 14 schools in 3 school districts throughout the community, serving more than 800 kids. In the summer, about 300 children participate in summer day camp.

The Farmington Family YMCA has a bright history and an even brighter future. This is due to the supportive community and the hard work of all of the individuals who believed in the mission of the YMCA. Though the Farmington Family YMCA has certainly evolved in its 50 years of existence, its mission continues to remain the same: The Y has and always will put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



THE FARMINGTON YMCA TODAY

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing the potential of every child and teen

Childcare

Preschool: The Y currently provides onsite fulltime childcare for infants through 4-year-olds. In addition, The Y offers Kinder Ed, which gets preschoolers Kindergarten ready.

School Age Childcare: The Y provides childcare for grade school students at school sites before the school day starts and after it ends in the afternoon. Serving more than 800 children at 14 schools across 3 school districts, the Farmington Y provides enriching experiences outside of school hours for students.

Sports

There were 1,300 sports registrations in 2014 at the Farmington Y. The newly launched Girls on the Run and STRIDE – running programs for girls and boys – taught 200 children self-confidence and achievement last year. The Y also recently began bringing after-school sports programs to the schools, which is a convenience for families. The Y has four racquetball courts offering very popular leagues and tournaments throughout the year. In addition, the Y hosts Sunrise Runners, a group that started in 1987 and runs regularly at 5:45 am and 7:15 am.

Camp

During the summer when school is out, the Y provides two day camps for families to choose from who may need camp for childcare, education to prevent summer learning loss, recreation, socialization and more. The Farmington Y serves approximately 300 children each summer

Teens

Currently, about 75 teens come to the Y on weekday afternoons for the Youth Center program – a collaboration with the city.

FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Improving the nation's health and well-being

Family

The Y currently holds special events for families in the Farmington community, including Annual Egg Hunt in the Park, Healthy Kids Day, Halloween at the Y and Pancakes with Santa. The Y also offers monthly family nights with a different theme, including Lego, flag football, flick and float and more.

Aquatics

In 2014, members of the Farmington Y participated in 3,372 aquatics-related sessions throughout the year. Programs include swim lessons for all ages, water exercise classes, and more. The Y has 2 pools: the standard lap pool and a warm water pool with wheel chair access. The Farmington Y partners with the Arthritis Foundation to provide arthritis water exercise. The Farmington Family YMCA Stingrays (FFYS) has been serving about 120 youth every year since 1997.

Fitness

The Y offers a full range of fitness classes and options in the wellness center and free weight room. There were 2,069 fitness-related registrations in 2014. The Farmington Y is moving toward evidence-based classes, including a new program for patients with Parkinson's called Delay the Disease. Racquetball and Sunrise Runners both came to the Farmington Y in the 1980s and still regularly occur today.

FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

Membership

The Farmington Y currently serves about 10,000 members. About 4,000 of the members are seniors, who find camaraderie and healthy lifestyles at the Y.

Outreach

In 2014, the Farmington Y had 283 volunteers, totaling 15,251 hours of service .Volunteers serve in many roles, including childcare, spring clean ups, sports coaches, greeters, filing, special events and so much more. Additionally, the Farmington Y continues to give out \$200,000 in assistance year after year from the Annual Campaign. Funds gathered from the campaign help approximately 200 families each year.



THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Staff Hopes For The Farmington Y's Future

- Expanded services for members with chronic disease and special needs, as well as for teens.
- Embrace technology at the Y for staff, facility security, member access, registration, fitness tracking and account management. Fully integrate technology into preschool childcare classrooms and curriculums. Bring technology to offsite programs including before and after school care, allowing improved delivery of curriculums.
- Green and solar powered building enhancements, allowing us to provide more and improved programs and services to members and the community.
- A community garden and farmers market that all of Farmington can enjoy.
- Even more support for families who need it, including financial assistance and help from onsite social workers.

1962: Volunteers meet with the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to pursue expanding YMCA programs into Farmington.

1963: Programs begin with Indian Guides – now known as Adventure guides – HiY, and Tri HiY followed by swimming, dance, day camp, sex education and fencing.

1964: Farmhouse at Grand River and Drake, donated by Norman Lawton, becomes the first home of the Farmington YMCA. Rose Berberian becomes the first Program Director.

1965: YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit establishes the Farmington Family YMCA as a branch. Dave Comfort becomes the first-ever Executive Director.

1968: 12.8 acres of land at Farmington Road and 12 Mile is purchased.

1972: Farmington Y moves to the A-Frame. Gary Unruh becomes the Executive Director.

1977: Farmington Y conducts feasibility study and starts capital campaign for \$900,000 for future facility.

1980: Doors open to new facility and dedication marks the new home of the Farmington Family YMCA.

1982: Kevin Bush becomes Executive Director.

1983: After school care begins at the Farmington Y.

1987: Wellness Center is built.

1990: Wellness Center is expanded.

1995: Robertson warm water pool is built at the Farmington Y.

1997: The Michigan Stingray Swim Association team merges with the Farmington YMCA Devil Rays and adopts the team's current name, Farmington Family YMCA Stingrays.

1998: Rick Durei becomes Executive Director.

2003: Air conditioning is added to racquetball courts.

2005: Weight room that exists today is added to the Farmington Y.

2006: Farmington Y starts Camp Riley, an educational summer day camp for kids.

2012: Laura Perlowski becomes Executive Director.

2012: Former Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swimmer Katya Bachrouche competes for Lebanon in the 800 meter freestyle in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Katya learned to swim at the Farmington Y.

Board Members

Polly Bachrouche

Ed Barter

Mike Bridges

Burke Gaddis

Margo Gorchow

Greg Kateff

Gary Lambert

Jon Manier

Tracy Peterson

Keith Podob

Robert Nagle

Brian Rich

Bill Scheuber

Susan Webb

Tom Wilkinson

Norene Yuskowatz

Zack Washington

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Alan Zander

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Hannah Russey

Branch Operations Director:
Katie Kokko

Membership & Marketing
Director:
Ariel Wilkerson

Wellness Director:
Jon Guest

Childcare Director:
Leana Parker

Youth & Family/SACC
Director:
Therese Perlowski

Camp/SACC Director:
Abigail Sacco

Aquatics Director:
Jeff Norris

Sports Director:
London Lewis

YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

FARMINGTON FAMILY YMCA

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