



2022 ROUNDUP

What kinds of incredible things can you accomplish with a team of donors behind you? Too many to list. That's why we did the next best thing and came up with our top 10 favorite **SUMMIT AREA YMCA** stories of the past year. Here they are – in no particular order.

10 STORIES FROM THE Y

ZOOMING TO PERU

Lima may be 3,645 miles away, but the children in our Berkely Heights YMCA aftercare program can now connect to the YMCA of Peru with the click of a button. Over Zoom, our aftercare participants learn everything from the Spanish language to Peruvian culture by meeting with a teacher from Peru.

Teen Central

2022 was the year of total teen expansion at our Y—setting new records for the number of participants in our Achievers, 7th Grade Initiative, and 8th Grade Leaders programs. To top it off, the Summit YMCA introduced Stemnasium, a free program to help students of color unlock their reading, math, and science potential. And at the Berkeley Heights

YMCA, our booming teen population finally got a safe, comfortable space of their own thanks to a grant from the Hyde & Watson Foundation.

Exercising Mental Health

In 2022, we re-upped our commitment to being kind to our minds by introducing meditation classes and a stress relief workshop specifically designed for teens. We also received a grant that will help us super charge our mental health offerings in the coming year with free First Aid Mental Health classes. This knowledge will equip our community with the knowledge needed to identify and respond to signs of distress.



AN EXTRA SPECIAL PROM

After a two-year hiatus, we rolled out the red carpet once again at our 'Extra Special Prom' in May. This event for young adults with special needs had everything prom dreams are made of: a limo, gowns, suits, a DJ, and crowns for our guests of honor. It was brought to life by a generous sponsorship from the Summit Elks and a little help from 150 enthusiastic volunteers.

Legacy Making at TLC

122 years. That is the collective time Betty Budd, Lois Farrell, Joyce Klimaski, and Margaret Lloyd devoted to the children at The Learning Circle YMCA before their well-deserved retirements last year. In 2022, we celebrated these extraordinary women and began the next era of TLC's history with the arrival of Jennifer Brown, our new executive director, who will continue to build upon the legacies of those who came before her.

SPRINGFIELD PARTNERSHIP

Following our first year in a tremendously successful partnership, the Township of Springfield invited our Y to continue operating the Springfield Community Pool for three years beginning in 2022. For the residents who live nearby, this not only ensures they will have access to camp and outdoor swim next summer. This means more opportunities to bring neighbors together through Y activities, including senior programs and community events, throughout the year.



Expanding Access to Essentials

In October, we joined the Diaper Program and Period Initiative at the Community FoodBank of NJ. Within the first 24 hours, 44 families responded to let us know that they were in great need of these supplies. Now, in addition to the food we distribute to 300 local families each month, we're also able to ensure diaper and period products are available to help all our neighbors meet their basic hygiene needs.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEWEST ★ AMERICANS ★

Life can be overwhelming for families navigating a new country. We're determined to help. We hosted Empowering Kids Organization (EKO) for the first time in the summer of 2022. This ensured first-generation American school children had access to the Y for tutoring in the mornings, camp in the afternoons, and two hearty meals each day.

In 2022, we also added ESL classes, where Spanish speakers and Ukrainian refugees have a safe space to learn English and bond.



A SLAM DUNK YEAR



How do you round out a year of basketball at the Summit Y that starts with a visit from the New York Knicks? By giving your travel basketball team the experience of playing at the Madison Square Garden, of course. Then launch a new girls 12U basketball team. And for the big finale? A championship win for our 12U team at Hoop Heaven. Yes, it's true. All of that took place in 2022 at our Y.

\$1M Toward Equity

Our membership base continues to grow post-Covid, and with it, so does the need for free programs and Y scholarships for everything ranging from childcare to swim lessons and more. Last year, it was our great honor to provide more than \$1M in financial assistance to those in our community. All of it was only possible because of you – our generous donors – who provided this funding that was so needed.

