



Mexico YMCA Today

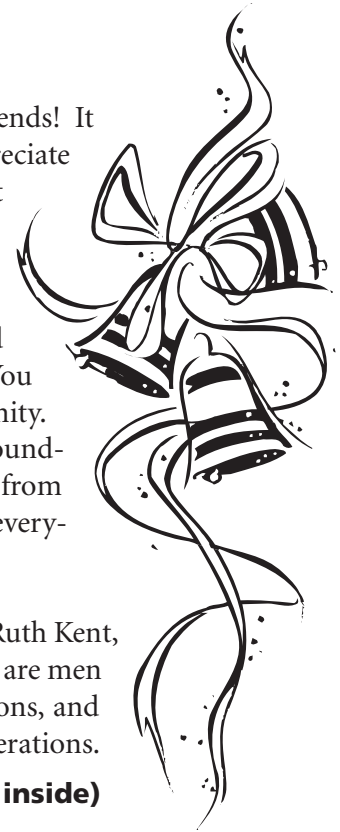
The newsletter of the Mexico Area Family YMCA, December 2011

DEAR YMCA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our YMCA members, supporters and friends! It is an often heard message at this time of year, but it is heartfelt and sincere. I appreciate each of you for being loyal members despite an economy that cannot decide if it wants to spurt or sputter. I hope you will share my joy and excitement in regards to the progress of our capital campaign. To date \$3.1 million has been raised towards our \$4 million goal. We are hoping and praying for an \$832,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation. If you have not given to this campaign and would like a tax deduction for this year, your gift will be very much appreciated. You will be able to share in the pride of a larger facility to meet the needs of our community. You may also donate on-line through our web site at www.mexicoymca.org. Ground-breaking should take place in late spring/early summer. Remember, it is donations from our community that will make this happen. It will take large ones, small ones and everything in between, but they will all add up to create something wonderful.

The Mexico YMCA welcomed three new members to our Heritage Club this year: Ruth Kent, Martha Meng, and Virginia Robertson. The members of the YMCA Heritage Club are men and women who believe in the mission of the YMCA, share its ideals and traditions, and have made a commitment to ensure that this heritage is continued for future generations.

(continued inside)



- Our Mission:** To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.
- Our Cause:** Strengthening the foundations of our community.
- Our Values:** Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility
- Our Focus:**
 - For Youth Development
 - For Healthy Living
 - For Social Responsibility

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The commitment might be in the form of an outright gift or be a part of their estate plan. The good they do today will live on forever.

January 7, 2012, the YMCA will once again celebrate Heroes' Day. Our usual \$50 join fee will be discounted to \$25 for anyone who joins the Y on that day, in honor of the men and women who have given extraordinary service to the YMCA. This first Saturday in January had its roots as "Tom Taylor Day", and a volunteer leadership award was given in his name. Tom was a true hero of the Y in every sense of the word, thus the new name of "Heroes Day". Tom, we remember you well! The Y has been blessed with many volunteers, leaders and mentors. This is the day we set aside to say thank you. Please join us for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on January 7 for good memories and the opportunity to recognize another Y hero. Past heroes include: Tom Taylor, Mary Karellas, Darrel Ransdell, Jack Creason, Roslyn Dial, Jean Hill, George Irion, Robert McIntosh, Charles Doerge, Ralph McDaniel, Art Clervi, Tammy Angel, Ann Dawson, Nancy Ekern, Steve Hagan, Carla Tanzey, Chad Shoemaker, Patrick Kelly, Paul Seigfreid, Mary Cockelreas, Jessie Taylor, Linda Hopkins, Dan Erdel, Robert Marty, Kim Costley, Robby Miller, City of Mexico and Jeff Frazier.

The YMCA took on a different type of project this summer. We applied and received a generous donation from the Wal-Mart Foundation to assist us in feeding children during the time school was not in session. The Mexico Housing Authority allowed us to use the Garfield Community Center to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch to any child in our community. The meal program took place between the end of summer school and the start of the fall semester. Our goal was to help families stretch their food budgets by providing the 2 meals, and to make sure no child would go hungry during the summer months. We think we accomplished both goals by serving hundreds of meals, and hope to be able to do the same thing next summer.

Our YMCA has been accepted to be a partner with the Healthways' "Silver Sneakers Fitness Program". People age 65 and older who have a Medicare policy with the Silver Sneakers benefit will be able to come to our YMCA at no cost to them. We hope to be set up for the program by January 1. Please check your policy, or ask your parents or grandparents if they qualify. This is a great benefit!

We enclosed the front entry just in time for winter! Hopefully it will help with our utility bills and make it more comfortable for our front desk staff. We will also be replacing the men's locker room floor in 2012, and we will have to shut down the locker room to do it. We will give everyone lots of notice so you will not be taken by surprise. We have had experts studying the flooring and the issues associated with it. Both the men's and women's locker room floors had the same epoxy flooring installed with very different results. As soon as our experts come up with a solution, we will proceed in putting in a new

floor surface. We purchased a new pink treadmill in time for Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. The manufacturer donated 10 cents for every mile you logged on it, and we gave out pink hand towels to our members who walked or ran on it. We hope Cybex will continue to do this every October.

Please continue to check out our beautiful web site at www.mexicoymca.org to see all the programs and activities offered at the Y or off site. You can also find us on FaceBook where we post announcements daily about programs and activities. If you provide us your e-mail we will send an information newsletter each month about activities the following month.

We have a year under our belts with the transition of the new logo. Some people have asked me why we took the “C” out of the YMCA. I promise that has not happened! We are still the YMCA; our mission is still to provide programs based on Christian principles. The only thing that has changed is our logo, and of course we are calling ourselves what you have been calling us all along—“the Y”. We still want everyone to know what the Y stands for and the impact we have on our community. The Y is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. Every day our impact is felt when an individual makes a healthy choice, when a mentor inspires a child and when a community comes together for the common good. The Y is all about youth development, healthy living and social responsibility and we are committed to strengthening our community.

Kudos to:

Nancy Ekern and **Jack Creason** for their tireless leadership of our capital campaign

All the campaigners who have worked hard to help us reach our fundraising goal.

All of our donors – we appreciate you so much!

Our Y board members who give of their time and expertise to our YMCA

The Mexico Housing Authority for their donation of the Garfield Community Center this summer which allowed us to provide free meals to children in the community.

Max Kennen for being our champion!

Michael Perll for being a wonderful youth governor in the Missouri YMCA Youth in Government program.

The City of Mexico for helping us do site work on our lot.

YMCA volunteer coaches for their caring and for their time.

Dan Erdel for many things.

Youth In Government Volunteers: Brendan Webber, Christine Beshears, Cheryl Bledsoe and Paul Seigfried.

I appreciate each of you for being a member or a friend of the Mexico YMCA. I always close this newsletter by asking you to look at the memorial list and to remember loved ones and friends who are no longer with us. I also ask you to look at our list of Annual Support donors. These are the people who make it possible for us to offer a free after school program for middle school students, and make it possible for many families to be members of the Y and hundreds of children to participate in Y programs. For the first 11 months of 2011 the YMCA has granted \$70,000 in aid for memberships and programs. If you would like to make an end of year gift, you will be provided with a letter for your tax deduction. Your gifts are a blessing and they truly make a difference in so many lives.

Thank you again for your loyalty and support of our YMCA. Keep an eye on our corner – great things will be happening in 2012. May God bless you and keep you in the coming year.

Yours in Good Health,

Sherry Medley
Executive Director



2011 Memorials & Donations

End of Year Donations

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Glenn and Ann Phillips

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Alan and Susan Atkins

In Honor of Gary Filbert

Alan and Susan Atkins

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In Honor of their grandchildren

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In Memory of Paul "P.D." Myers

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In Memory of Harold D. Lankford

Marion Lankford

In Memory of Eugene M. Kent Jr.

Ruth Kent

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Bonnie Popp

In Memory of Marilla Ransdell

Pete and Nancy Ekern

In Memory of Frank Sutton

Pete and Nancy Ekern

In Memory of Samsara Butler

Mark Bakke

In Memory of

G. Burton & Marie Gillette

Paul and Lawanah Gillette

In Memory of Hubert Myers

George and Linda Huffman

In Memory of

Harold August "Red" Boedeker

Howard and Carla Tanzey

Building on a Legacy, Caring for our Community

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Doug and Tina Woolsey

Heritage Club Members

These individuals have made contributions to the YMCA Endowment Fund or have included the YMCA in their estate planning.

Charles Cockerleas
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The YMCA welcomes all who wish to participate and annually raises scholarship funds to help make that possible. Please let us know if we may serve you or your family in this way.

Thank You

A special thanks to all of our YMCA volunteers: board members, soccer coaches, basketball coaches, t-ball coaches, kick ball coaches, flag football coaches, Youth in Government advisors, swim team parents, annual support campaigners, and all other volunteers – you are the “heart” of this YMCA!

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - THURSDAY
5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY
5:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

NOTICE

**The YMCA will be open on New Year's Day
from Noon to 4 p.m.**

**We know that many of you have asked for this,
as you want to start the New Year
with a commitment to your good health!**