



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

IMPACT REPORT 2021

DARIEN YMCA | 2420 POST ROAD, DARIEN CT | [DARIEN-YMCA.ORG](https://darien-ymca.org)

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

What a difference a year makes.

After experiencing a tumultuous and challenging year of 2020, thanks to the tireless efforts of staff and volunteers and the support of the Darien community, 2021 marked the successful rebuilding of YMCA programming. And while 2021 was not quite a return to “normal,” the challenges were met with resilience and grace. We are truly thankful for our entire community of families, members, full-time and part-time staff, and volunteers.

Thanks to the combination of staff’s skillful navigation of governmental COVID relief programs and the tremendous support of the Darien community, 2021 saw the Darien YMCA emerge from the COVID crisis on strong financial footing and puts the Y in the position to invest in facility updates and program enhancements, so that the Y continues to lead in high quality programming and services.

I hope you take a moment to review the 2021 Darien YMCA annual report and reflect on the tremendous impact the Y has on so many lives thanks to your generosity of spirit and financial support.

Gratefully,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Gardner".

Jennifer Gardner
CEO



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Cattano".

Michael Cattano
Board President

YMCA LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Cattano, **President**
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April Greene, Youth Services Director
Henk Jansen, Head Swim Team Coach
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Nicole Kapitan, Gymnastics Director
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Joe Marzano, Sports Director
Lee Malloy-Stendardi, Membership Director
Suzanne Richards, Director of Youth
Development & Special Needs
The Masi Company, Facilities Management



WHO WE ARE

MISSION: The Darien YMCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Our mission is to strengthen the foundation of the community through programs, services and relationships that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

OUR IMPACT: To support the strengthening of families and building of communities through the promotion of health and wellness.

OUR GOALS: Here in the Darien community, we've been committed to building strong kids, strong families and a strong community for over 60 years and are determined to keep doing it for at least 60 more. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, background, or income, feels welcome and has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. In 2021, we provided over \$279,000 in financial assistance and scholarships to support those in need.

We're committed to having a greater impact on the overall well-being of the community by seeking collaboration, inspiring trust and heightening awareness to foster, support and sustain youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

RESTORING OUR CONNECTIONS, STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

OUR AREAS OF FOCUS: Our three areas of focus are what we at the Y dedicate ourselves to every day.

Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility.

We believe that by nurturing these three areas, we can support our local community and help every individual discover and reach their potential, become healthier and encourage behaviors and actions that improve lives.

BUILDING RESILIENCY

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:

At the Y, we give young people a safe place to belong, to build confidence and to learn positive behaviors from strong role models who exemplify the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Whether it be child care, early education, youth swim and sports, camp or mental health, our programs and staff provide the support and opportunities needed to help our youth learn, grow and thrive.



PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

HEALTHY LIVING:

Our mission, centered on the balance of spirit, mind and body, provides programs and resources that encourage healthy living. We try to make it easy for you to work out by having knowledgeable staff who care, resources and equipment that motivates healthy living, and a welcoming, supportive community who encourage your well-being.



INSPIRING KINDNESS

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

As an organization dedicated to serving and strengthening our community, we inspire members of the community to make a difference in the lives of others with small and large acts of kindness. Your support helps others who are less fortunate to access our life-changing opportunities.





MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

121 kids were safe and secure at the Darien Y Kids Club after school.



828 children played, laughed, and made memories at Summer Camp, including 19 campers with special needs.



1,150+ youth swim lessons helped children achieve confidence and learn the ins and outs of water safety.



\$279,000+ in financial aid was distributed for membership and program fees giving everyone the chance to be part of the Darien Y.



425 individual donors helped raise over **\$238,000** to continue the work of bringing our neighbors to the Darien Y.



350+ volunteers serving our Darien Y contributed **5,905+** volunteer hours.

645 older adults kept physically and mentally active at the Darien Y.



Facility visits were up **35% over 2020**, keeping more of our 4,198 members engaged in fitness, wellness and aquatics to find their healthiest selves.



7,088 virtual workouts brought fitness and wellness into members' homes of every age and ability.



ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM

2021 – REFLECTING ON OUR YEAR:

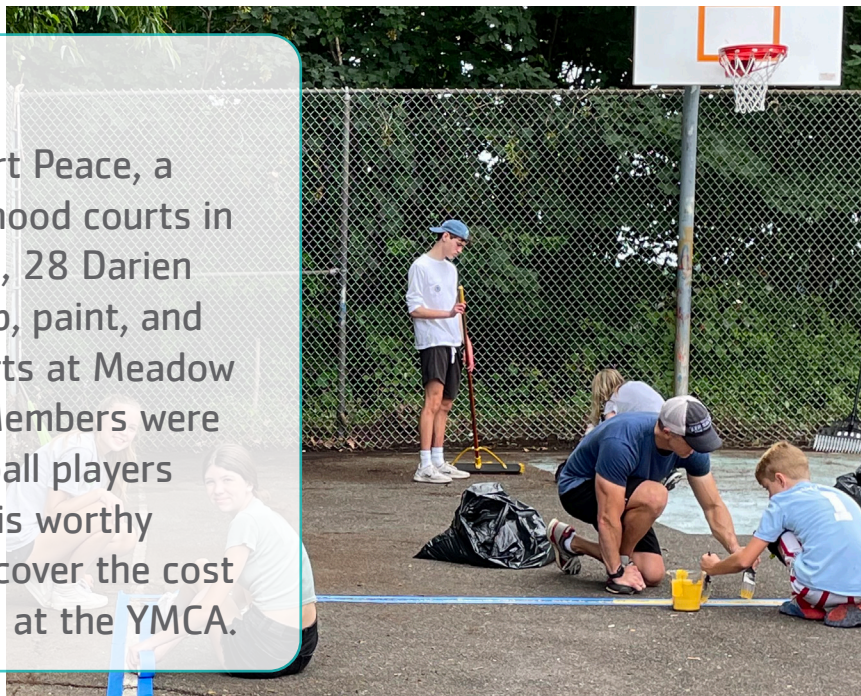
Red Cross Blood Drives:

The Darien Y hosted a total of 4 blood drives in partnership with the American Red Cross. As a result, **151 pints** of donated blood saved over 450 lives.



Full Court Peace:

The Darien Y partnered with Full Court Peace, a local nonprofit that repairs neighborhood courts in underserved communities. On July 10, 28 Darien Y members came together to clean up, paint, and replace basketball hoops on two courts at Meadow Gardens Park in Norwalk, CT. The Y Members were made up mostly of our youth basketball players who gave their time and energy to this worthy cause and **raised over \$15,000** to cover the cost of supplies and financial scholarships at the YMCA.



Person-to-Person (P2P):

P2P continues to be an essential and valued partner in the Darien community. Darien YMCA members eagerly raise their hands to help when called on by P2P. In 2021, **45 Y members volunteered** at various P2P clothing and food distribution events. Our Y members also donated food, toys, backpacks, and household goods to support P2P's community drives.



ENSURING EQUITY

2021 – REFLECTING ON OUR YEAR:

Abilis: Project Search

In 2021, the Darien Y partnered with Abilis, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides services for individuals with special needs and their families, to launch the implementation of Project SEARCH, a nine-month internship program for people with disabilities at our facility. Project SEARCH helps young adults, ages 18–30, including transitioning high school students, who seek competitive employment. The Project SEARCH internships with Abilis run in two locations: one internship program at Greenwich Hospital and one internship program at the Darien YMCA.

At the Darien Y Abilis Project SEARCH Internship, **6 interns worked with our facilities, wellness, childcare, marketing, and membership teams** to develop and acquire new marketable work skills. As a result, the interns increased their independence, self-confidence, and self-esteem, preparing them for future employment. To assist them, interns collaborate with a team that includes their family, their Project SEARCH instructor, an Abilis job coach/developer, and a Darien Y mentor.



ENSURING EQUITY

2021 – REFLECTING ON OUR YEAR:

Darien United: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Every day, the Darien Y works side by side with our friends and neighbors to strengthen our community. Together, we work to ensure everyone -- of any income, faith, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, cultural background, or other unique personal characteristics -- has the opportunity to thrive. We share the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, which are the foundation for everything we do.

Here at the Y, we seek to **lead as an anti-racist and multi-cultural organization** adapting anti-racist principles and ensuring equity and inclusion for all. However, as we embark on this journey together, we do so with humility, fully aware that we have much more work to do as a local and national institution.

As part of this work, the Darien Y is a founding partner of Darien United, a grassroots initiative made up of Darien residents and local leaders who commit to creating and supporting a welcoming community that respects and encourages the contributions of all people.

Darien United



ENGAGING COMMUNITY

2021 – REFLECTING ON OUR YEAR:

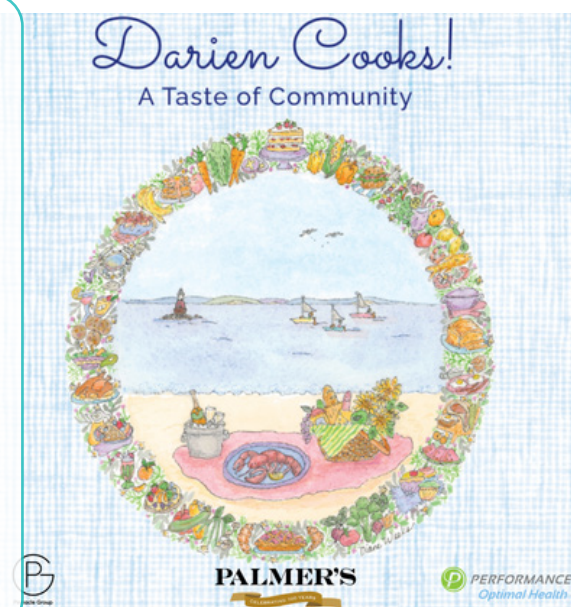
J. McLaughlin: Susannah Marren, Book Signing:

The Darien Y was thrilled to partner with YMCA member and author Susannah Marren at her book signing at J. McLaughlin in Darien on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Thanks to Susannah, 15% of sales benefited the Send a Kid to Camp campaign, **raising \$1,000**.



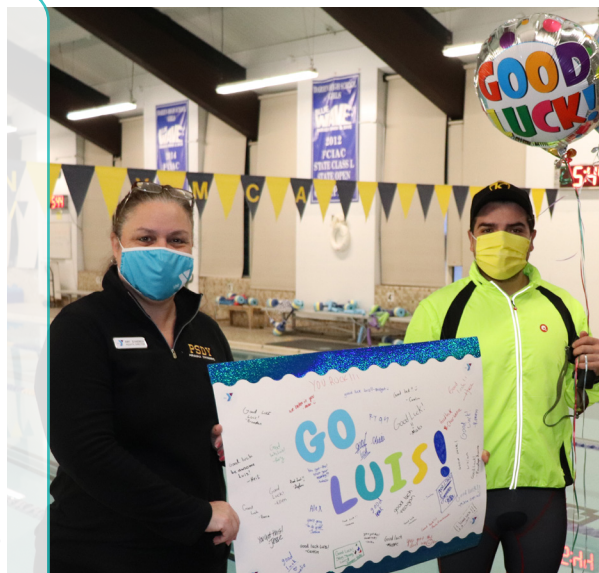
Darien Cooks: A Taste of Community:

In the early months of the pandemic, The Community Fund of Darien and the Darien Y came together to discuss a community-building project. They realized that the more people had to quarantine, the more they cooked. “What’s for dinner?” was the inspiration for Darien Cooks, A Taste of Community. In early 2021, community members submitted their family recipes and Diane Weeks, a local artist, created the cover. **Over 90 books have been sold** to date. All sales of the cookbook support local community programming and scholarships.



Our own Ironman: Luis Rodriguez-Lemus:

Luis originally signed up to compete in the Ironman in Texas on April 18, 2021. However, the race was canceled due to COVID. Luis, who trained here at the Y, decided to carry on and complete the Ironman on his own. On Sunday, April 18, he competed in his first leg of the Ironman by swimming 2.4 miles at the Darien Y pool. He then took off to finish biking 112 miles and running 26.2 miles within the 17-hour time limit. Luis also **raised over \$1,600** to support our Send a Kid to Camp campaign, giving more kids an opportunity to attend camp.



THANK YOU 2021 DONORS

For those who stayed with us, donated to the Y, or volunteered their time and resources, we are so grateful. Because of you, the Y is able to serve and strengthen our community.

CHAMPION \$10,000+

Catherine & Brett Jefferson
Tricia & David Rogers

BENEFACITOR \$5,000+

Dorinda & Andrew Bonanno
Meredith & Whitney George
Kathy & Peter Gogolak
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LEADER \$1,000+

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Elizabeth & Thomas Bredahl
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Lori & Matt Talucci
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Kristin Flood Wappler

THANK YOU 2021 DONORS

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Vail Weyman & Shiv Vasisht
Kathleen & Jeff Williams
Danielle & Michael Yoo
Rachel & Taymore Zarghami

FRIEND UP TO \$250

Kim & Ben Adams
Irene Adsuar
Suzanne & Charles Anderson

Morgan & John Arbo
Ellen & Brian Arsenault
Averill Babson & Gregory Sohns
Robin Baker
Claire & Paul Bamundo
Tobey & Christian Bangert
Susan & Howard Barash
Jennifer Barbagallo
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Amy & Thomas Bell
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Kristin & Michael Calandra
Vikki & Mark Campbell
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Cynthia & Roland Clough
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Caroline & Elo Comfort
Sandy Coots
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Mackenzie Coughlin
Karen Coyle
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Bonnie Cunningham
Amy D'Andrea

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

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Taleen Johnman
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Alicia & Randal Johnson
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John Love
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Griffin & Todd Marr
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Morgan Mattoon
Eve & Jean-Paul Mauger
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Molly McDonnell
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Stephanie & Timothy McGraw
Ruchi Sharma & Neel Mehta
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Kevin Miller
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LuAnn & Anthony Moccia
Moriah & Christopher Monsif
Mark Montandon
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Irina Moskalenko
Robert Mozdzer
Sara & Bryan Murphy
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Meaghan Nolan
None None
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Sharon & Patrick Parr
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Heidi Smith
Kris & Josh Smith
Laurin & Doug Smith
John Spain
Terry Spring
Susan Stack
Harriet & Harvey Stack
Susan Stasinski

This Annual Report includes gifts received by the Darien YMCA between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our lists. If your name has been misspelled, listed incorrectly or omitted, please accept our apologies and contact our Development office so we can correct our records.

Karen A. Ford
Development Director
203.655.8228 ext.1358
kford@darien-ymca.org

Thank you for your support!

GIVING

Our donors make it possible for children, families and adults of all ages to have access to Y programs that are vital not only to them, but to our community. Donations allow the Y to open doors to members regardless of their ability to pay.



PIRANHAS GIVE BACK

SWIMMERS FROM OUR PIRANHAS SWIM TEAM, VOLUNTEERED TO SUPPORT THE PERSON-TO-PERSON CLOTHING DRIVE.



2021 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE			
Program Service Fees	\$5,173,924	\$188,627	\$5,362,551
Membership Dues	\$1,609,909	-	\$1,609,909
Annual Campaign	\$238,262	-	\$238,262
Contributions	\$24,757	\$60,850	\$85,607
Paycheck Protection Program contribution	\$1,006,403		\$1,006,403
Employee Retention Credits	\$ 798,393		\$798,393
Sale of supplies	\$10,764	-	\$10,764
Investment return, net	\$17,343	\$17,003	\$34,346
Gain (loss) on disposal of land, building & equipment	\$5,617	-	\$5,617
Other Revenue	\$86,656		\$86,656
Net assets released from restrictions	\$222,259	(222,259)	-
Total public support & revenue	\$9,194,287	\$44,221	\$9,238,508
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$6,512,530	-	\$6,512,530
Management & general	\$961,202	-	\$961,202
Fundraising	\$137,017	-	\$137,017
Total expenses	\$7,610,749	-	\$7,610,749
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,583,538	\$44,221	\$1,627,759
NET ASSETS Beginning of Year	\$11,201,043	\$330,164	\$11,531,207
NET ASSETS End of Year	\$12,784,581	\$374,385	\$13,158,966



THANK YOU YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

DARIEN YMCA

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