

# Staying the Course



At the core of it all is a desire to lead everyone in the direction of a healthy spirit, mind and body through innovative programs, healthy initiatives and partnerships.

- ★ **Investing in the health and well-being** of our community is at the heart of our mission. In 2008, we served 33,333 people of all ages through health and wellness programs, meaningful interaction, education and recreation in a stress free, active environment.



*Healthy Kids Day offers fun, engaging activities for children and families, and promotes year-long wellness and healthier living.*

- ★ Reaching beyond our YMCA facilities, we brought the community **Healthy Kids Day**. Through this event we were able to provide 400 families with vision and asthma screenings, hand washing education, nutrition information, bike safety, animal safety, face painting, family exercise education, family walk/run, healthy snacks and fire safety.
- ★ Offering family centered programming helps **families build stronger relationships**. In 2008, 906 children and their families enjoyed parent-child activities like family fun nights, Breakfast with Santa, Thanksgiving Dinners, Easter egg hunts and family camping.



*2008 Don W. and Nannie V. Fitton Family Branch AMAZING RACE.*

- ★ **Connecting more than 2,500 volunteers, members, supporters and friends**, seven special events across the association inspired people to get moving, and raised more than \$92,300 toward the Strong Kids Campaign. Events focused on physical fitness, family time, mental aptitude challenges, bringing the community together and celebrating the Y's mission.





# Giving Children the Direction

“Out of my whole time at Summer Camp, I think that the Compass Award was one of the best events of the program. Some of the patches that meant a lot were the ones they (counselors) gave you personally, aside from the ones you got weekly for participating in activities. They meant that the teacher who gave it to you thought you were representing one of the YMCA’s core values. Like if you helped a person up from a fall and took him to the counselor then you got a caring patch. You can take home the patches and compass award after camp so it will remind you of what you accomplished in the summer camp. I think the awards are a great symbol of faith, caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.”

– Angus  
Fitton YMCA  
Summer Camper

Children are always running toward the next path. It’s through the people and influences that children encounter during their formative years that they develop assets and build character. Fortunately, the YMCA is there to guide them in the right direction through engaging programs that build character and instill the values of faith, caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



Preschool Graduation at the East Butler YMCA Children’s Center

- ✳ In 2008, **1,950 children enrolled in safe, positive child care** and after school programs where they focused on academic and social development.
- ✳ Better prepared for Kindergarten, **652 children attended our early learning centers** where they had a safe, enriching place to learn while their parents worked.
- ✳ Summer Day Camp offered youth from Butler & Warren County the opportunity

for fun and friendships. In 2008, **2,655 children were engaged in enrichment activities** that include values development, physical fitness and field trips.

- ✳ Swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities in the world. In 2008, nearly **6,000 children learned to be safe in and around the water** through their experience in our YMCA swim lessons and aquatic programs. The Y also offers competitive swimming that teaches kids to work hard, work intelligently and to persevere on the GMV Flippers and Middletown Manta Rays swim teams. Both swim teams sent a combined 10 swimmers to Nationals this season and

**Flippers Coach Pat Jeanneret was awarded the Greater Miami Conference Coach of the Year.**

- ✳ The YMCA has the exceptional ability to use sports, play & physical activity as a means for encouraging the physical, social & emotional development of youth. We are **fighting the childhood obesity epidemic** and emphasizing skill development, health and fitness, sportsmanship, teambuilding and self-esteem to 3,855 through youth sports programs including Tae Kwon Do, Soccer, Basketball, T-ball and Coach Pitch Baseball.



Fitton Y Campers received Compass Award patches for participating in weekly activities such as this hands-on learning experience about nature with Naturalist Sharon Edwards.



# They Need to Succeed



**Camp  
Campbell  
Gard**

Camp starts with fun and adventure—banana boating, water skiing, horseback riding, ziplines, swimming, archery, mountain biking. But for the 4,040 children who attended camp it was so much more...

- ★ 96% of parents and campers said that camp helped them make new friends.
- ★ 97% of parents and campers said that camp helped them get to know kids who were different from them.
- ★ 96% of parents and campers said that camp helped them feel good about themselves



*Kids find lasting friendships at Camp.*

- ★ 92% of parents and campers said that camp helped them do things they were afraid to do at first.



*A child prepares to ride the zipline.*

## Hamilton Central Youth Services

Active and positive mentoring for inner-city youth is the center of Youth Services after school and summer programming. Through tutoring, mealtime,



*Summer outings to museums, the Newport Aquarium, Kings Island, COSI, colleges and local parks expose youth to new opportunities.*

recreation, character development activities,

service learning and enrichment outings, children are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential. This program is completely funded through United Way, the Strong Kids Campaign, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Ohio Casualty Foundation and grants.



*Youth benefit from homework assistance and enriching activities after school.*

"This year, for the very first time, my special needs grandson received financial assistance to attend Camp Campbell Gard. My grandson has varied disabilities and diagnoses. He has never attended Camp before this year. He had many fears and phobias including fear of anything nature but after attending Camp he now informs me that he pets the animals at the nature center and has fed and ridden the horses. This is truly amazing for this child!

After I dropped him off at CCG one morning, I stayed in my car just watching the interaction between counselors and campers. I have rarely seen devotion, kindness, patience and understanding as was displayed by your counselors with these children. I commend these young people who will indeed be our leaders of tomorrow."

-Patti