eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Celebrating
97 years

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Mission: YWCA Vermont is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Dear Members and Friends of YWCA Vermont:

We are pleased to present YWCA Vermont’s 2016 Annual Report. We are proud of all that YWCA accomplished in our ninety-seventh year of working to meet the changing needs of Vermont women and girls by creating opportunities for growth, leadership and power.

As interim President of the Board of YWCA Vermont for the last two months of 2016, I want to thank board directors who left us earlier this year (Patti DelHagen Billard, Nancy Blanchard Martel, and Karin Bloom) as well as those leaving at the end of the year: Betsy Faunce Andrews, Gil Pierre, and Sherrie Steinfeld Maxman. Their service has been an important part of our successes this year as well as for the previous years of their terms.

I will let our very successful Executive Director Deb Jorschick tell you the specifics of the staff’s accomplishments for 2016—but I do want to take this opportunity to thank Deb, our new year-round Camp Director Donna Diaz, our Assistant Development Director Joanna Scott, and our part time Administrative Assistant Dawn Miller for their determination, imagination, inspiration, and dedication to our causes.

After an important board retreat in the spring, I look forward to the Board’s continuing journey toward the “big picture”—as we move from a group of Hochelaga alumnae arranging bake sales as fundraisers to a professional group of women with varied experience anxious to bring Camp Hochelaga and YWCA Vermont into their second century with a sound financial foundation. Strategic planning, both on the board and committee levels, are now the name of the game. I hope that I speak for the Board when I say that we are looking forward to this new method of operation in 2017 and the years to come. We have worked for years to get YWCA Vermont to this important launching point. Here we go!! Please do not hesitate to be in touch should you want to be a part of this very exciting and important work.

Maureen “Moe” Kaplan
Interim President, Board of Directors
Financial Summary

The Organization had increases in all classes of net assets in 2015. Unrestricted net assets showed an increase of $21,462; temporarily restricted net assets showed an increase of $6,210 and permanently restricted endowment donations showed an increase of $2,400. The total increase was $30,072. Liquid funds held in checking, savings and certificates of deposit showed an increase from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2015 of $77,470. The fair market value of endowment scholarship and capital project investment accounts totaled $313,927 as of December 31, 2015. Total revenues increased from $450,453 in 2014 to $485,448 in 2015, primarily from an increase in revenue from Camp Hochelaga. Total operating expenses increased from $425,991 in 2014 to $453,224 in 2015 primarily from an increase in labor and programming costs.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015

Highlights:

- Hired new year-round Camp Director
- Hired handy couple for camp maintenance
- Diverse summer staff
- Rebranding YWCA completed and new look at events
- Successful media campaign-Get Your Camp Face On!
- New Short House built
- Over 300 volunteers working to better Camp Hochelaga
- 640 girls attended camp and 61 scholarships offered
- Vermont Task Force on Domestic Violence
- Successful strategic planning retreat
- Local 22 & Local 44 tv news coverage of camp twice
- Efficiency Vermont partnership
Thank you for a great 2016

This was a year of laughter, love and tears. If not for the wonderful staff at YWCA Vermont office, Joanna Scott, Donna Diaz, Dawn Miller and Terry Melton we could not have accomplished all that we did given some of the most trying circumstances. This year was a true test for our staff in knowing how to work with one another and support each other. I personally want to thank my staff for being there for me during one of the most difficult times while my mom, Gail was sick and when she passed away. When I looked up and saw the flood of white Hochelaga staff shirts in line to see me at my mom’s wake, it spoke volumes as to “What Hochelaga Means to Me”. It also spoke highly of our newly hired Camp Director, Donna as she “got it”. Joanna, Terry and Donna — thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to continue to get the work done no matter what.

Thank you to the Board for the support and dedication it takes to work effectively near and far. Learning to agree to disagree sometimes can be the best solution. I believe as a whole this board has grown tremendously and pushed this organization to greater limits. It has embraced the need for Camp Hochelaga to run as a business, supported the efforts in the area of development, and worked hard to set a strategic plan in place for the future.

Thank you to our committee members who worked long and hard to move plans to the board so the work of the YWCA can continue. These committees need to grow in numbers and we will get there, but the work continued regardless.

Lastly thank you to all of our wonderful tried and true volunteers that helped to open and close camp. And a big welcome to the new volunteers who have now been touched by the magic of our very beloved Camp Hochelaga. We saw over 300 people come into camp to help cut trees, grind the many stumps, plant flowers, extend the raised beds and transplant 20 blueberry bushes as well as painting the inside of the kitchen. So many beautifying moments at camp this year and it really felt good to get those projects that have been on a list completed.

The many smiles at camp and each event we attended this year were truly uplifting. This helped to solidify that we are on the right track to furthering to empower each young girl that comes through the gate of Camp Hochelaga. We are full steam ahead for 2017 and we hope to have you on board with us. It can never be done alone.

I thank each and every one of you for your time and energy spent to keep our mission alive in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Deb Sawyer Jorschick
Hello From Camp Director Donna

When I started this summer at camp, I heard many times what a special place it was, and once you get the spirit it is in your soul forever. At first all I saw were long lines at registration, long hours and tired counselors. But as each week passed, I started to understand what those campers, counselors and alumnae were saying. At the last candlelight, I spoke with the passion of someone who “gets it”. Hochelaga is that magical place and I am fortunate to be part of it.

Hochelaga Helping Hands

As part of our flourishing organization, we strive to make YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga as inclusive and mission driven as possible. Getting out into the community is an important practice toward this goal. We are proud to announce that we are introducing a new program, and would like to invite you to help us get the new program off to a good start. We are looking for committed, passionate, promising past or present campers, parents, volunteers, members, and staff to lend their voices and hands. Help us be the best we can be and join the Hochelaga Helping Hands Ambassador Advisory Council.

Remember, YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga begins and ends with you!

Our year-round staff is looking forward to working alongside you; applicants should be prepared to contribute and assist with the following specific requirements for at least one full calendar year for a total not to exceed 20-40 hours: we are happy to be able to satisfy school community service / civil or service learning projects for school-age applicants. Participate and attend year-round community events on and off camp property, foster positive relationships and commit to be an active YWCA Camp Hochelaga Ambassador in your community, connect with and support YWCA Camp Hochelaga through social media and other communication channels, contribute in appointed discussion groups to help develop program ideas, fundraising and evaluations and camp improvements.
Every gift is important to the YWCA, and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. If, however, you notice an error, please accept our apology and contact us at (802) 862-7520.
What a great year!
Thanks to you it was a great 2016!
Here’s to our upcoming 98th.