

## YOU ARE WELCOME AT ALL OF THESE LOCATIONS

### DeWitt YMCA

13161 Schavey Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820  
P 517.827.9660 F 517.668.9670

### Downtown YMCA Wellness Center

119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing, MI 48933  
P 517.827.9640 F 517.484.7855

### Oak Park YMCA

900 Long Blvd., Lansing, MI 48911  
P 517.827.9700 F 517.694.2945

### Parkwood YMCA

2306 Haslett Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823  
P 517.827.9680 F 517.339.1380

### Westside Community YMCA

3700 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, MI 48917  
P 517.827.9670 F 517.367.7874

### Mystic Lake YMCA Camp

P.O. Box 100, Lake, MI 48632  
P 517.827.9650 F 989.544.2722



[ymcaoflansing.org](http://ymcaoflansing.org)



### YMCA MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body.

**METROPOLITAN OFFICE**  
**119 N. Washington Sq.**  
**517.827.9690**



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
**FOR HEALTHY LIVING**  
**FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW . . .

## 135 YEARS YOUNG

## A HISTORY OF SERVICE

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## YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW . . .

The year 2012 marked the 135th anniversary of the YMCA of Lansing, an organization rich in local history, with national and international roots going back to 1844, when the Y movement began in London. The impact the YMCA has made in our communities is evidenced by the countless children, adults and families that have adopted healthier lifestyles, become more involved in their community, thrived in our childcare programs, or had a life-changing experience at camp.

Millions of children have learned to swim at the Y, including Mark Spitz, Janet Evans and Greg Louganis. Notable residents of the Y's dormitories across the country included Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcom X and journalists Dan Rather and Andy Rooney.

Millions of children have also benefited from youth sports at the Y, including Frank Robinson and Wilt Chamberlain. Millions of kids have grown up at the Y, including boxing champions, TV producers, UN ambassadors, comedienues, Hall of Famers, Supreme Court Justices, musicians, Heisman Trophy winners, actors, artists, CEO's, Speakers of the House, coaches, chaplains, poets, Olympic gold medal winners, US Senators, governors, and fashion designers.

Many national organizational movements also started because of the Y, including Toastmasters International, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, High-Y Clubs, Indian Guides and Indian Princess Clubs, and the Gideons. The Y started the first-ever Father's Day celebration, and is even responsible for the creation of basketball.

Locally and all over the world, people of all ages and all walks of life have come together at our facilities to grow healthier and stronger in spirit, mind and body. This continues to be our moment to change the future of our community.







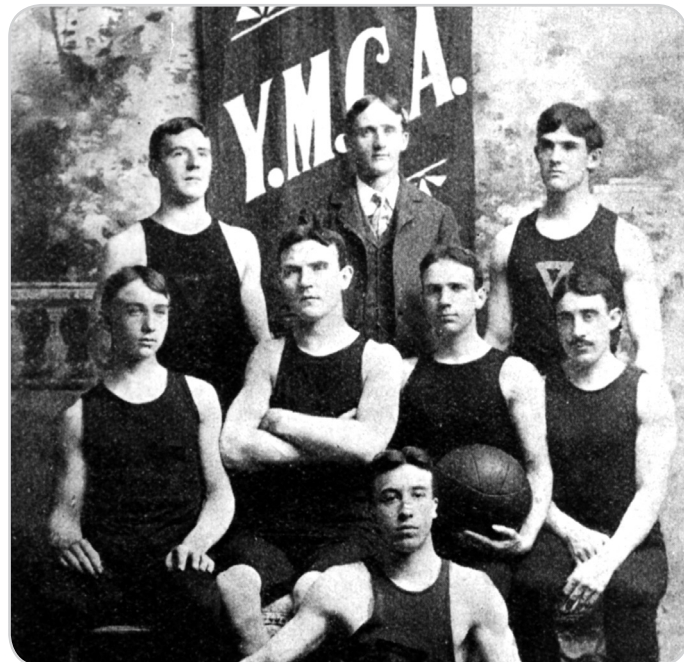
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## THE EARLY YEARS



In 1877, Louis DeLamarter, a prominent Lansing businessman and member of Central Methodist Church, made history by starting the YMCA of Lansing with the help of community volunteers. In 1879, women were admitted as active members with annual dues of \$1, while men paid \$2 per year. Objectives of the early Association were: "The development of Christian character; the promotion of evangelical religion; elevation of Christian sympathy; promotion of benevolent work in Lansing; and the improvement of youth, spiritually, intellectually, and socially." In these early days, there was no mention of a program focused on physical fitness.

After 30 years of holding meetings and activities in various locations throughout the city, the YMCA of Lansing finally built a facility of its own on Michigan Avenue, just east of the Capitol building, where the Lansing Police Department exists now. In 1907, the facility had a price tag of \$55,000, and housed a swimming pool, locker rooms, four bowling alleys, a barber shop, a 65-foot gym, a running track, and 14 boys' dormitory rooms and a kitchen. In one year, membership had jumped from 215 to 601 members, and annual cost had been raised to \$5.00.

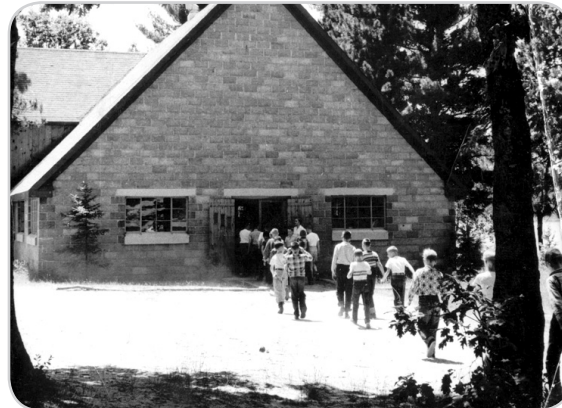


During the decade that followed, basketball, volleyball, calisthenics, swimming and bowling were popular activities, and the Y's boys' program flourished, with a strong focus on religious activities. Vocational, business and language classes were available, and with the help of R.E. Olds Motor Works and the Reo Motor Car Company, an auto and machine shop was created to be used by the local high school for regular classes.

## A NEW DAY FOR THE Y

The post-war period proved to be a time of significant change for the YMCA of Lansing. Membership and interest in the mission of the Y had increased. The changing needs of the community, along with a building in disrepair, suggested the need for new and larger facilities, made more challenging during a time of financial depression for the country.

By 1926, the YMCA of Lansing started its own camp, which had been a cornerstone of Y programming nationally for many years. Ninety acres of lakeside property in Lake, Michigan, were transformed into Mystic Lake Camp. R.E. Olds purchased the Mystic Lake Camp property for \$12,500 and sold it to the Y under a non-interest bearing loan which was later forgiven. Over the past 86 years, countless children and families' lives have been transformed by their experiences at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp.

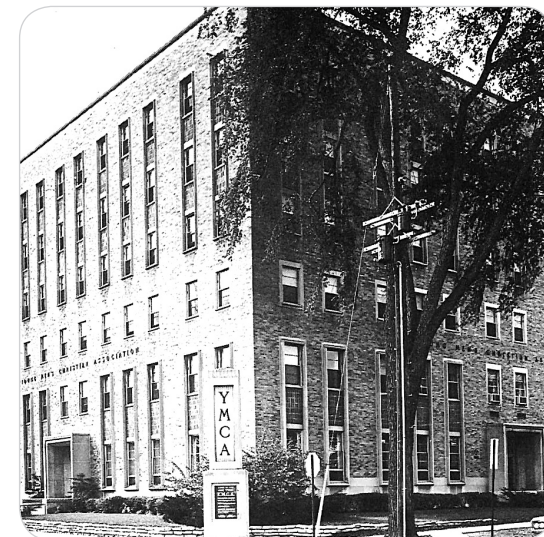


faith-based organizations throughout the Lansing area.

For the next 20 years, the organization continued to struggle with several financial roadblocks to completing its much-needed new facility. R.E. Olds again stepped forward and gave a pledge of \$100,000 toward the new building, if the Y would raise the additional \$400,000 by March, 1945; \$482,000 had been pledged on a suggested goal of \$750,000. In addition, R.E. Olds gave the land which became the parking lot for the building.

Then, in 1951, the big turning point finally came, and the YMCA of Lansing moved its home of over 40 years on Michigan Avenue to a new six-story building on Lenawee Street, where the organization would spend the next 52 years serving the Lansing community.

The area youth were also given a new Y location two years later, when a second camp was created. Camp Pa Wa Pi, a 28-acre site east of Williamston, was purchased by the Y Men's Club and deeded to the YMCA of Lansing. Camp Pa Wa Pi still serves as a day camp today, creating lifelong memories for area youth.



## BUILDING FORWARD



is home to the Parkwood YMCA branch we know today. By the early 1970s, the YMCA of Lansing's membership had grown from 215 in 1907 to 2,200.

Almost a decade later, in 1982, the Oak Park YMCA facility was purchased, and offered its first child care classes at the Oak Park Day Care Center in 1984. Y-sponsored before and after school day care centers in area schools followed, to help meet the demand for quality child care at Elmhurst, Fairview, Lewton, Maple Grove, Mt. Hope and Post Oak in Lansing, and St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing -- many of which are still in operation today.

In 2001, the YMCA of Lansing's Board of Directors voted to pursue the purchase of the existing Apple Sports Plex for renovation, and a brand-new Westside Community YMCA branch opened its doors on January 2, 2003. The very next day, after 52 years in the Lenawee Street location, the Downtown YMCA Wellness Center was open for business, along with the Y's Metropolitan office, in its current location on Washington Square. In 2003, the YMCA of Lansing served 19,986 members.

More recently, in 2007, the Downtown Wellness Center expanded to the 2nd floor of the Washington Square building with spacious studios, additional space for free weights, cardio machines, strength training equipment and a massage therapy room. That same year, the Board approved the opening of the DeWitt Branch, designed to serve the communities of DeWitt and St. Johns.

Also in 2007, the YMCA of Lansing undertook its first community-wide capital campaign in more than 25 years, the "Open Doors" campaign, which raised \$2 million to expand and improve our existing facilities. Renovations were completed at the Oak Park, Parkwood and Westside branches, as well as the creation of the Mystic Village at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp.

Later in 2009, the Westside Community YMCA opened the Eaton Rapids Program Center in the former Union Street School, where children and adults alike are served.

## TODAY AND TOMORROW

In 2001, and with assistance from the Y of the USA, a Y rebranding program was implemented to comply with new national standards. This rebranding focuses the organization on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, based on the founding principles of nearly 170 years ago.

Moving forward, the YMCA of Lansing will continue to provide our community with quality, affordable programming, designed to change lives for the better – for good.

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