

Celebrating Community Leaders at The Greater Valley YMCA Community Gala

By YMCA

Lehigh Valley - The Greater Valley YMCA Community Gala, presented by Lehigh Valley Health Network, was held on Saturday, at the Centennial Catering & Conference Center in Center Valley, PA. The Gala featured Keynote Speaker Larry Holmes, as well as celebration of several community leaders through the 2023 Y Champion Awards presentation.

At the Gala, Holmes shared his experiences as a youth growing up in the Lehigh Valley and visiting the Y frequently. The gala fundraiser also feature dinner, additional award presentations, a Phillipsburg High School quarter, DJ Don from Rockin' Ramaley, as well as live and online silent auctions. The evening also provided updates on the Y's nonprofit, charitable mission programming, as essential dollars are raised for programs like the Y's Financial Assistance, Allentown Warming Station, and free youth and family meals programs, among others. The online silent auction, which runs from November 1-11, features items from local businesses, craft artisans, jewelry and more.

During the evening, the Greater Valley YMCA Easton/Phillipsburg Branch will celebrated 125 years of serving the community since its founding on November 7, 1898.

Also at the Gala, the Greater Valley YMCA acknowledged community leaders' contributions to the YMCA's mission throughout 2023. The Greater Valley YMCA is pleased to announce the 2023 Greater Valley YMCA Y Champion Award recipients who have contributed to the betterment of the communities the YMCA serves:

- Lehigh Valley Health Network, will be awarded the Association Advocate Award for their continuous partnership support of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility throughout the Lehigh Valley. The evening's award recognizes all the ways LVHN and the Y partner to support the health and wellbeing of Lehigh Valley neighbors.

Additional award winners include:

- Brosky Insurance Agency: for providing scholarships for at-risk youth to participate in programs, as well as supplying quality and affordable childcare to families in need throughout Catasauqua, Northampton and the surrounding areas.
- GOLD Credit Union: for supporting the Allentown Y's mission programs like the Warming Station, Healthy Kids Day, membership and Trunk or Treat, with investment and volunteerism.
- Greater Easton Development Partnership: for years of collaboration, financial support, and shared visioning in Easton's West Ward neighborhood.
- Martin Guitar & Co: for decades of partnership and support of Nazareth youth, families and active older adults, and well as investment in Nazareth's next generation through the 1918 Building Campaign.
- Young Chiefs Group, Sponsors of the Richard O. Dietrich Memorial Fund: for providing Summer Day Camp and Teen Leaders Program scholarships to Bethlehem youth and teens.
- Wind Gap Chevrolet: for sponsoring key Slate Belt community events like the Harry G Smith Memorial Golf Tournament, providing financial assistance to Slate Belt families in need, and helping the Y expand our community outreach programs.

The Greater Valley YMCA is grateful to all of our generous sponsors without whom this celebration of community would not be possible.



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