



Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

November 14, 2014

OUR MISSION

Y Service Clubs International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on Christian teachings, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA. Its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Ethan Ray

Pres. Elect:

Secretary: Martha Beals

Treasurer: Ken Haines

Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

Past Pres: Neil Topliffe

BOARD MEMBERS

Henry Capogna '15

John Carruthers '17

John Duiven '16

Chuck Marks '17

Bob Smith '16

Bob Williams '15

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis

Run Thru the Rapids:

Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie

Santa Claus Girls:

Bob Smith

White Elephant Sale:

Bill Streeter, Chair

Sparks Editor:

Neil Topliffe

[Sparks Editor](#)

President Ethan Ray called the Service Club bi-weekly meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y with Syd Baxter offering the prayer, followed by the pledge.

Guests were introduced: Bill Hinton, new Manitou-Lin director (Syd Baxter), **Johnathan Pope**, David D. Hunting Y executive director. **Grateful Dollars** were received.

Club News

- **Ethan Ray** presented **Dr. Curtis (Curt) Weaver** with his membership badge. Curt shared that he is on staff at Grand Rapids Gastroenterology, is married to Katie whom he met at Camp Manitou-Lin, graduated from E Grand Rapids HS and returned home 1 ½ years ago to begin his practice.
- **Santa Claus Girls – Bob Smith** reported that next Wednesday, November 19 was Pizza Day at the site. Work for us continues November 19, 21, 25; December 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 19 from 8:30-10:30 am. Deliver day is December 20.
- **Syd Baxter** announced the final amount raised from Run Thru the Rapids was \$16,650 to support the camp Strong Kids Campaign scholarship fund.
- **Bob Williams** gave an update on the **Y Service Clubs International US Area Convention next July 9-12**. Tom Lawrence has agreed to be Registrar/Treasurer. GR YMCA has agreed to host Friday banquet at David D. Hunting Y.

NEXT MEETING – December 5 – Dr. Harry Holwerda
Author, Mission Worker (see page 3)

Next Board Meeting – Thursday December 18, 5:30 PM
-- Park Congregational Church

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Martha Beals (11/15)
Chuck Marks (11/18)
Chris O'Malley (12/2)
Syd Baxter (12/9)
Tom Lawrence (12/9)
Jud Ross (12/14)



Find us on
Facebook

[-White Elephant Sale](#)
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

475 Lake Michigan Dr NW
Grand Rapids MI 49505
www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrutherapids.com

is a member of
Y Service Clubs
International.

www.yservice.org
www.ysmenusa.com



11/14/14

Women's Resource Center Programs Impact Local Women

What happens when you find yourself without a job after downsizing - a single mother with kids to feed and minimal job skills? Or how do you go about looking for help getting work but with no experience in going through the process? And how do you prepare for the job interview, particularly if you are at the end of a term at Kent County Jail?

All of these situations, and more, are part of the mission of the Women's Resource Center, we learned from Terri Demeter, Communications Director. And they have a solid reputation of success in preparing their target group - single and low income women in our community - to successfully enter the work force and support themselves and their families. In operation since 1973, the Center has trained 40,000 women in 41 years, more than 1,000 last year.



"Our goal is to improve women's workplace and economic opportunities," Terri explained. One place they are at work is a program in collaboration with the county jail. "New Beginnings" teach job skills for incarcerated women with felonies. An integral part is providing a mentor to support the student. Over the past two years 87 women have been part of the program with an impressive success rate.

"After two years women released from prison after the New Beginnings training have had only an 11 percent returned incarceration rate," Demeter said, "whereas the non-participant rate was 64 percent."

What Can We Do?

In response to that question, Terri urged us to "become ambassadors for the Women's Resource Center," especially encouraging us to notify them when there are job openings. "Eighty percent of all jobs are never advertised or posted which makes it difficult for our trainees to be hired," she explained. "Please, also we need more businesses to consider employing those who were in the justice system." Biases make it particularly difficult for them, even after they have reformed.

SAVE THE DATES



Y International Service Clubs US Area CONVENTION

JULY 9-12, 2015

**Hilton Hotel Airport
28th & Patterson**

**WE ARE THE HOSTS
In partnership with
MIDEAST REGION**

Co-Chairs:

- Neil Topliffe
- Bob Williams

We will need help with

- Registrations
- Hospitality
- Programs
- Transportation
- Greeters
- Finances



Santa Claus Girls Work-Days Schedule

Location: 4300 36th Street SE
(West of Patterson). Park in front
of building near glass tunnel
entry. Look for signs.

Work Days (8:30 am – Noon):
December 8 & 10 & 12
December 16 & 18 & 19



Delivery Day: Saturday, December 20

Medical Doctor, Author, Mission Worker Speaks



We are in for an expansive journey on **December 5** when Harry Holwerda speaks to us at our club meeting. Dr Holwerda is a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan Medical School. He served as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War and was in private practice for 35 years. He served Christian Reformed World Missions as a medical doctor in full time service early in his career in Nigeria, West Africa.

He is the author of “A Doctor’s Devotion.” Since retirement he has served World Missions as a volunteer consultant. He and his wife Joan have raised four children, three of whom served as long term foreign missionaries. Harry has done multiple short term mission trips and continues to do so.

Photo Vignettes



Chris O'Malley moves the latest White Elephant donations to storage from Kent Intermediate School Dist.



Friend and former club member Dan Miller delights in playing with new child.