

NECC

Northeast Community Center

Fall 2016

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Neighbors,

The past year has been one of **energy** and **growth** at the Northeast Community Center; we have strengthened our fitness and wellness programs while expanding service to our neighbors and supporting our community. All these activities further our non-profit mission. Let's get to some highlights:



- **Expanding adult and senior fitness classes.** During 2016 we diversified and expanded our adult fitness and wellness classes, adding Daily Meditation, Biala Connigo, and workshops and classes such as the Franklin Method Movement Class, Nutrition Workshop, Meditation for Stress, and Stability Ball Training. The NECC remains committed to supporting adult and senior health by offering fitness classes that meet the needs of a diverse population, including Gentle Restorative Yoga, Tai Chi & Tai Chi-Moving for Better Balance, Joints in Motion in the pool, Parkinson's Exercise

continued inside...

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Virginia Ammons

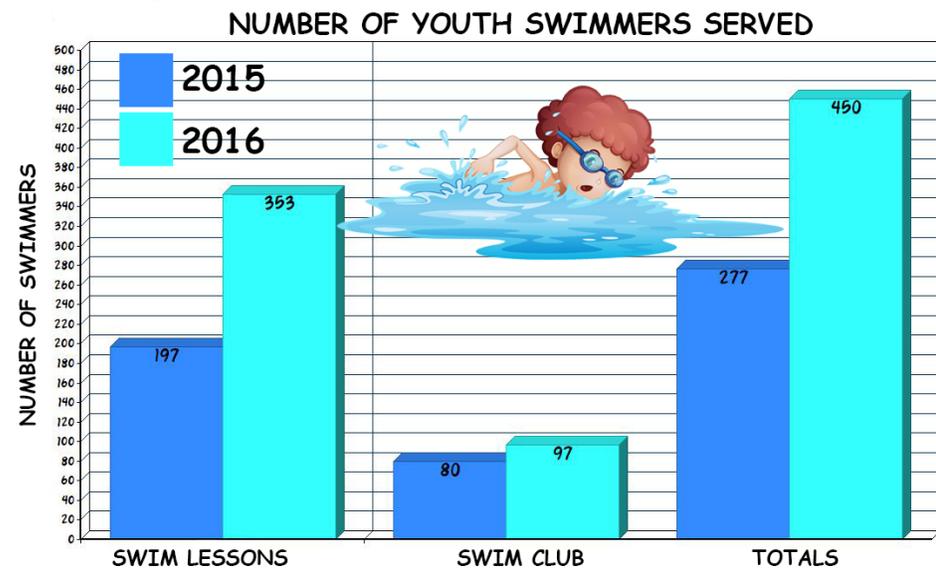


Virginia has been a fervent supporter of the NECC since its inception in 2004. Virginia first donated to the NECC when she was asked by her long-time friend, Linda Rasmussen, to support the formation of an inclusive community center where all are welcome. Virginia continues to give to the NECC because she recognizes the commitment that the Center has to the community and the positive impact on health, wellness and community involvement. Virginia is also a member of the Don Waggoner Giving Circle, and she has made provisions for the NECC within her estate planning. Her generous contributions over the past eleven years have helped support the NECC's mission to improve the lives of our neighbors, and we are grateful for her commitment to our future.

...continued from front page

class, as well as the heart-pumping Saturday Sweat and 6am Fully Body Fitness. And our just-for-kids Child Watch provides a place for family members to play while their parents or grandparents are exercising.

- **Teaching more children to swim.** This spring we had more than 100 swimmers on wait lists for group swim lessons. Teaching children to swim is an important service to our community, and this fall we restructured our pool schedule to better balance the demands for all our aquatics activities. In doing so, we have given 170 more young swimmers in our community the opportunity to learn the live-saving skill of swimming!



- **Supporting other non-profits.** One of our most important community contributions is supporting other non-profits through the low-cost use of space in our facility or through direct support from our members and our neighbors. In 2016 we: provided space to Women Strength (an empowerment program conducted by the Portland Police Bureau); partnered with Art From the Heart to host adult participants with developmental disabilities in our gymnasium every Thursday; donated to the Oregon Food Bank; provided the Annex for a fundraiser for local high school ski and snowboard teams; provided Annex space to a pediatric obesity prevention program; provided meeting and presentation space to Northeast Village PDX, a new option for senior housing that helps seniors remain in their own homes; and participated in the Albertina Kerr Giving Tree program.

- **Strengthening community connections.** The NECC has always been “Waaay More than a Fitness Center,” and during 2016 the NECC offered several programs and activities to strengthen the fabric of our community. We initiated a Speakers Series, and in October hosted our first guest, Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler. Our annual Halloween community carnival attracted more than 400 of our neighbors. We also hosted numerous workshops and activities such as: Native Plants workshop, hearing screening, community appreciation block party featuring Tony Starlight, Pollinator workshop, resource presentation by Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, and our annual Fine Art and Cool Craft Show and Sale.

And we aren't done yet! On December 7 at 10:30am, Katharine West from Wyse Kadish LLP will present a free one hour talk on estate planning and giving,

continued on the next page...

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Monthly dues and class fees do not cover all the operational and maintenance costs of the NECC. The NECC has always relied on generous contributions from its members and the community, and there are many ways to give.

- **Make a monthly donation.** Add a recurring gift on to your dues or pledge monthly. Need help with this? See the friendly front desk staff.
- **Make an annual donation.** Respond with the enclosed envelope or online at www.necommunitycenter.org/donate.
- **Become a member of the Don Waggoner Giving Circle.** Donate \$1000 or more annually to support the NECC building fund.
- **Ask your employer about matching opportunities.** Matching gifts are an easy way to double a charitable contribution. Thousands of companies match their employees' gifts to non-profit organizations such as the NECC.
- **Include a gift to the NECC in your estate plans.** For more information on this topic, attend a free workshop at the NECC on December 7 @ 10:30am.
- **Connect your Fred Meyer Rewards card to the NECC.** Every time you make a purchase, Freddie's will contribute to the NECC, without decreasing your benefit. Just login to your account, search for and select the Northeast Community Center as the non-profit you want to benefit.

Questions about ways to support the NECC? Email us at execdir@necommunitycenter.org.

...continued from previous page

and on December 14 @ 7pm we continue our **Speaker Series on Leadership**, hosting Vailey Oehlke, Director of Multnomah County Libraries.

Won't you help us continue to serve our community's fitness and wellness needs and build community? If you would like information on activities and events, please send your current email to info@necommunitycenter.org. We don't ever sell or share your information, and we would like to keep you updated about events and activities at your community center.

YOUR BOARD AT WORK

NECC's fifteen-member, all-volunteer Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the NECC has adequate resources to advance its mission and steer it towards a sustainable future. During the past year, the Board's work has focused on four areas: addressing the deferred maintenance needs of our unique historic facility; meeting the state-mandated increases in minimum wage and providing a fair wage for our valuable employees; balancing member and community demand for our programs such as swim lessons, adult fitness classes, and other activities while fulfilling our mission as a non-profit organization; and planning for the NECC's future.

Deferred Maintenance of our Historic Facility. As part of the 2017 budget, the Board will consider a proposal to both borrow sufficient funds to complete the reroofing of our historic facility and replace the ceiling in the pool. In addition, we are planning to obtain a line of credit which, in combination with prudent management of annual budgets should enable us to have sufficient reserves to deal with potentially major pool remodeling.

We are not planning on putting major investments in our current pool until we have completed an ongoing strategic planning process focused on meeting future needs. However, this loan for the roofs will result in a need for a major push on our current fundraising efforts.

Fair Wages. In April 2016, the Board implemented a 5% increase in membership dues. Combined with a planned second 5% increase in April 2017, the NECC is in a good position to stay ahead of the new minimum wage mandates and to continue to increase the wages of our valuable employees. We have already seen improved morale and greater stability among our employees as a result of these increases.

Programmatic Changes. During the past three years, NECC membership has grown more than 50%, and demand for classes and activities has exploded! The Center has expanded our footprint to the Annex, providing space and opportunities for youth, fitness, and community outreach programs that were not previously possible. We also restructured the pool schedule to expand group swim lesson availability, and as a result, 175 more young swimmers are learning to swim in NECC's pool.

Meeting the future needs of our community. The Board is undergoing a strategic planning process focused on how we ensure that the NECC is available to serve future generations. Specifically, the Strategic Development Committee of the Board has been exploring potential opportunities with the development of our parking lot to accommodate the expected continuing increase in demand for the types of fitness and wellness programming that we provide. Funding, of course, is the major limitation, but the Board is willing to consider appropriate partnerships that would allow us to expand in a cost-effective manner.

Your Board is hard at work meeting the NECC's current challenges while planning for the future. Get to know your NECC board members at necommunitycenter.org/board-of-directors/.

NECC TRIVIA

The NECC was started twelve years ago from the desire to provide for the community when the NE Family YMCA ceased operations. Whether you are new to the NECC, a longtime member, or come for community classes and activities, see how well you know YOUR NECC.

Because the NECC is a community center, it is part of Portland Parks & Recreation and receives governmental funding. **FALSE** - The NECC is an independent non-profit community center that does not receive governmental funding.

The NECC affords all members of the community an opportunity to participate in fitness and wellness activities, regardless of ability to pay. **TRUE** - The NECC provides Membership Assistance to those who cannot pay the full cost of monthly dues, has never denied membership for those who qualify for financial assistance, and last year the NECC provided more than \$36,000 in direct assistance.

NECC Membership dues and lesson fees cover the full cost of running the NECC. **FALSE** - While the NECC also benefits from facility rentals and other miscellaneous revenue in addition to membership dues and lesson fees, we still have a gap of about \$100,000 each year to meet our operating expenses and continue to make investments in our facility.

Volunteer support is important to the NECC. **TRUE** - The NECC relies heavily on volunteer support. In 2016, members and neighbors volunteered nearly 2,500 hours towards supporting the NECC through activities such as board service, facility management, cleaning, youth coaching, and representing the NECC in the community.

The NECC strengthens the community, provides a place to make community connections, and raises property tax values in the surrounding neighborhoods. **TRUE** - Several economic studies have found that neighborhoods with a community recreation center potentially benefit from increased property values, and neighbors living in areas with recreation centers feel a stronger sense of community.

Contributions to the NECC are tax-deductible. **TRUE** - Because the NECC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the IRS. NECC's tax id number is 20-2154935.



Northeast Community Center

1630 NE 38th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

503-284-3377
necommunitycenter.org

OUR MISSION

The Northeast Community Center's focus is on helping families and individuals achieve their wellness, recreational, learning, and cultural goals, while being part of a diverse, welcoming community.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

Beginning in 2005, when the NE Family YMCA closed its doors and the NECC was born, we have been working to address the deferred maintenance on our unique 1925 building and make upgrades that improve the building's energy efficiency and prolong its useful life.

In the past three years, much of this work has been spearheaded by Gary Gibbs, volunteer chair of NECC's Building and Grounds Committee. In addition to regularly attending the 6am Full Body Fitness class, Gary spends an average of 10 hours each week planning and coordinating large-scale maintenance and Capital Improvement projects and supporting smaller projects like testing the NECC's water for lead, hanging lights for special events, and installing the new roll-up storage door outside the multipurpose rooms.

This past year, the NECC made the following major investments in our facility:

- Replaced the roof over the women's locker room
- Resurfaced and restriped the parking lot
- Replaced the sand filter in the pool
- Upgraded the main building's outdated electrical panel
- Painted the Annex
- Installed new carpet in the first floor of the Main building
- Installed drinking fountains with filtered bottle fillers, and
- Still to come in 2016 is installation of new flooring in the Core Room.

The Board has identified two urgent facility improvement priorities: replacement of the roofs over the gymnasium, the pool, and the west part of the building; and ensuring that we are able to repair our aging pool should the immediate need arise.

How can you help? First, we are always seeking volunteers to join the Buildings and Grounds Committee and support ongoing projects. If you are interested, email Gary Gibbs via execdir@necommunitycenter.org. Second, make a tax-deductible donation to the NECC (necommunitycenter.org/donate). Membership and Programming fees do not cover deferred maintenance projects or facility upgrades, and we rely on contributions from individuals, families, foundations and businesses to support these investments in our infrastructure.

