

# Report to the Community

2022-2023









### Leadership

#### **Professional Staff**



Mark Rothert Executive Director



Amy Berman Administrative Assistant (Programs)



Cassie Conti Personal Training Manager



Michelle Drum
Director of Finance, HR,
and Administration



**Jason Fate** Program Manager



Ray Killian Facilities Manager



**Jan Shaw** Membership Manager



Theresa Wright Group Ex Manager

#### A Message from Our Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends,

How quickly time goes by. While it is hard to comprehend that this year marks the seventh year since the opening of the Lauri Ann West Community Center facility, it is even harder to comprehend that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of a community center and library on this same property. This year we are celebrating this special legacy and the countless visionaries and volunteers that banded together to establish a community center and library for all to enjoy.

From these strong roots emerged two, independent facilities: the Cooper-Siegel Library and the Lauri Ann West Community Center.

Some of those same original individuals along with numerous other donors, volunteers and community leaders are working very diligently to ensure this legacy continues.

We are very proud to be part of the ongoing tradition of providing service to our community. Whether you are a 3-year old attending a class or camp or a senior citizen attending a Silver Sneakers Group Exercise class, or anyone in between, you belong here...Here's to the next 40 years!!

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Mark Rothert
Executive Director

Sandy Garcia-Tunon Board President

#### **Board of Directors**

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Sandra Garcia-Tunon President

Ryan DeMotte Vice President Steve Susnak Secretary

Terry Dunlap Treasurer Cassie Eccles

Keith Fenton

Gabrielle Ferry

Barbara Gray

Jay Katarincic

Erich Klatt

Kevin Romango

Andrew Tragesar

Katie Vautrain

G. Thomas Wiese

# Vision, Mission, Values

### **Vision**

We unite and inspire community.

### **Mission**

The Lauri Ann West Community
Center builds connections, expands
horizons and impacts lives by
providing a safe place for all to
learn, play and grow.

### **Inclusion**

The Lauri Ann West Community
Center strives to create a safe and
inclusive environment that
celebrates and respects the unique
contributions of each individual.



### **Values**

Collaboration
Working actively together with others

Accepting

Creating a safe place for everyone

Respect

Appreciating and valuing similarities and differences

**Ethics** 

Acting with honesty and integrity in all that we do

Service

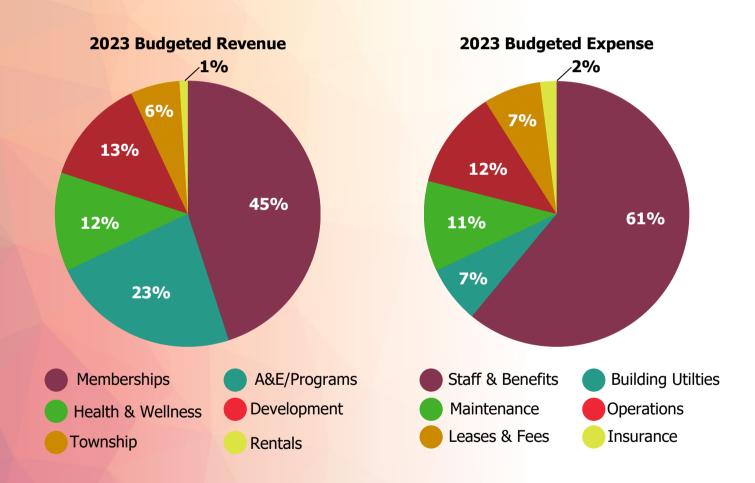
Making everyone feel welcome and appreciated

### **Balancing Cost and Revenue**

Our annual budget is drafted by our staff and approved at the committee level as well as by our full Board of Directors. The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors provides financial stewardship, and our finances are independently audited on an annual basis.

Our annual budget includes a plan for surplus and that surplus is used in support of our ten-year capital plan that ensures expected maintenance and purchases are funded prior to their need. It is very important to our organization that our facility remains current and fresh to all of our users.

Those who have been in our facility have surely noticed increased activity over the last year. Attendance has increased significantly for Programs, the Arts & Enrichment After School Program (A&E) and Summer Camps.

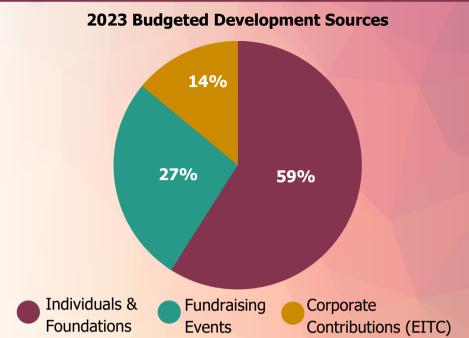


#### **Municipal Partnership**

We are very fortunate to receive a portion of our operating revenue from the Township of O'Hara. The Township also provides the Center with a generous \$74,635 of in-kind services including parking lot maintenance, trash removal, landscaping and snow removal. In 2023, an expanded partnership includes daily visits by Township Police and collaborations on events such as free movie nights and free self defense classes.

# Legacy of Giving





We are very thankful for the grants and donations we receive from individuals, corporate entities, foundations and other organizations. This philanthropy helps to fund our mission.

We are also grateful for the countless volunteers whose time and efforts we rely on to further our success. From individuals who serve on our Board of Directors, volunteer at an event or on an operational committee to those who help to keep our grounds looking appropriate, or volunteer during our summer camps, we couldn't do it without their support.

Our annual Celebrate the Center fundraiser and Annual Appeal help to support the daily operations of our facility and allow us to retain top notch staff and offer programs and community events at a low cost. Contributions by local businesses through the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program allows us to invest in our unique A&E Program.

**246** individuals donated in 2022

\$34,765

raised from 2022 Celebrate the Center **\$107,049** 

raised from 2022 Annual Appeal

\$51,556

in scholarships provided April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

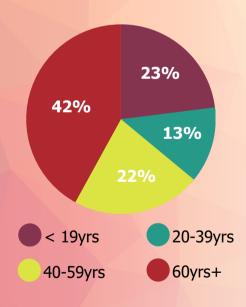
## Membership

The members of the Lauri Ann West Community Center are the backbone of the organization. We love the preschoolers who come in for their first Soccer Shots class, the A&E kids who get off the bus with so much enthusiasm each day, the teenagers who walk here from Fox Chapel Area High School to work out and shoot basketball after school, the moms and dads who rush in to try to squeeze in a quick workout, and our older members who visit for a work out, Silver Sneakers class, or to learn how to play Bridge.

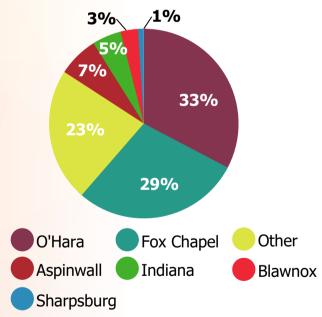
Our staff prides itself on getting to know our members and building personal relationships with them. Safety and customer experience are the top focus of all our our staff. Member feedback is extremely important to us and we find that direct conversations with members helps us to better understand their wants and needs. Our welcome desk staff is always available to answer any questions or listen to any requests.



#### **Active Members by Age**



#### **Active Members by Municipality**



4,739 total members

35

reduced rate memberships for military & first responders \$5,147

in military & first responder discounts

### **Fitness**



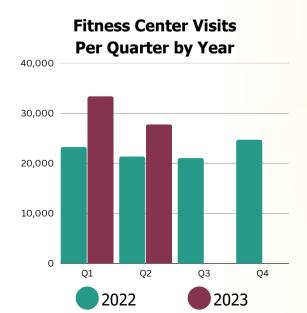
"Exercise not only changes your body, it changes your mind, your attitude and your mood." Unknown

Fitness levels are synonymous with the word individual. In our fitness center you can be as casual or as serious as you choose to be.

This past year saw numerous updates to our fitness center. Peloton bikes were an exciting addition as well as a new arc trainer, new calf raise machine and a third power rack. We have rearranged the fitness center and track area to allow for more space and we're regularly looking for ways to provide a better experience for our members.

If you desire to attend exercise classes in a group, we have you covered. With their diverse backgrounds, our current staff of over 15 group exercise instructors are second to none. We truly feel that our classes, which are included in the cost of most memberships, are what set us apart from other fitness facilities.

Member Carol Stonis has been a long time regular in our Spin classes. Carol says "What better way to resist chronological decline than spinning at the Lauri Ann West Community Center to Theresa's great tunes! I love the people and the facility!"



**50**Group Ex Classes offered each week

90,121 Center visits in 2022



# You Bel



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# **Personal Training**

There are various reasons that our members work with one of our personal trainers. Some members are only interested in learning how to use equipment properly, some desire someone to hold them accountable and others are training for something specific. Our eight personal trainers work diligently to build relationships with all of their clients.

In 2022 and so far this year we have seen a significant increase in the demand for personal training. With various different personal training package options we have something to suit all needs.

2,565
hours of personal training provided in the first half of 2023

Member Francesca has been working with trainer Cassie Conti. She says "I love working on my strength and stability by balancing on a Bosu and having Cassie pass objects back and forth. She pushes me to work harder and is always a highlight of my day!"



Member Carl Trakofler has been a personal training client at the Lauri Ann West Community Center for many, many years and has been training with Rachael Turnquist for just over a year. Carl just turned 87 years young. He says that he credits Lauri Ann West for being able to "still stand straight and not being in a wheelchair. The socialization is pretty good too!"

# Pickleball & Open Gym

Although pickleball has been around for 50 years, it has exploded in popularity recently. The USAPA recently estimated that over 400,000 people are now playing worldwide. 2022 and 2023 have seen a large increase in players at the Lauri Ann West Community Center. We currently have six courts available for use: Three indoor, and as a recreational partner to the Township of O'Hara we are able to offer pickleball programming on the three outdoor courts on our campus. We have been testing different playing options such as beginner, social and competitive play and will continue to evolve with the demand for this sport.



5,593
pickleball visits in first half of 2023



It is important for us to balance the use of our flexible space to accommodate demand and balance our offerings. In the mornings and early afternoons the Dunlap Family Gymnasium is used mostly for group exercise classes and open pickleball play. The later afternoons are reserved for our after school program, our children's programming or open gym. Our goal is to have open gym times scheduled to match with the end of the school day so that students can come play and enjoy a safe space. Open gym time is also made available in the evenings and every weekend so that families have a place to come and practice basketball together or play a pickup game with neighbors and friends.

### **Arts & Enrichment**

If any area of our facility shows our mission of "providing a safe place for all to learn, play and grow" in action, it is our Arts & Enrichment After School Program (A&E). For years our program has been providing an opportunity for students to try a new hobby, such as sewing or painting, learn about stop motion photography or learn how a battery and some wires can make a light turn on!

The A&E program is certified through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. All of the instructors must meet all of the state qualifications regarding education, experience, clearances and continued education. The physical rooms, staff and student paperwork and instructors are inspected yearly and strict student to teacher ratios are followed.



Through our partnership with the Fox Chapel Area School District and our mutual busing partner, ABC Transit, students in grades K-6 are bused to our facility directly from the School District buildings.

71

children served in the A&E program in the 2022-2023 school year

(29% increase in enrollment)

6

classrooms with 1-2 teachers in each room 12:1

or lower student/ teacher ratio

With instructors from various backgrounds, such as education, STEAM, art, painting and physical fitness we are able to offer students a variety of different experiences.

The goal of the program for the upcoming year is to increase enrollment to better satisfy the needs of the community and expand the curriculum in a way that is both fun and educational.

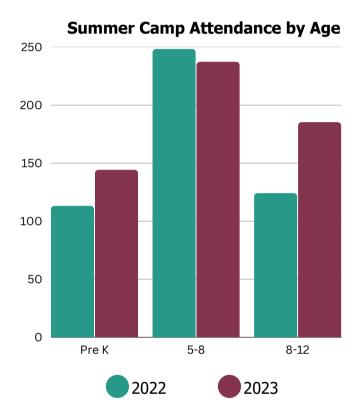


## **Summer Camps**









Parents were asked to provide feedback on our 2023 summer camp:

- This is Alice's 3rd year at Lauri Ann, and we continue loving it! Thanks for everything you do!
- Thank you for another wonderful year of camp!
   The instructors are fantastic and they are truly a highlight of this camp.
- David and Lydia loved the escape room activity on Friday. Water play and Kona Ice are always a hit!

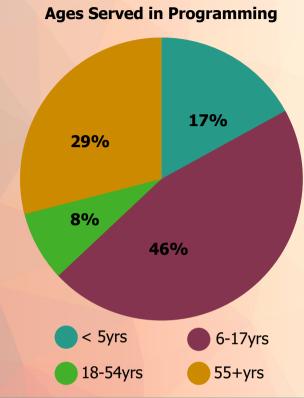
Summer Camps at the Lauri Ann West Community Center make the building come alive. During camp season there's an extra sense of energy and excitement in the building...along with a lot of laughter! Where else can you watch a group of preschoolers and senior citizens interact at a water fountain?

Each week of summer camp has a theme. Teachers work to take children on imaginary trips around the world or turn them into super heroes. Arts and crafts are completed each day and we go through a lot of glue, paint.....and cleaning supplies!

Thanks to sponsors and partners, such as Jane Herrmann, we are able to have the Kona Ice truck come each Friday as a special treat and we have special visitors throughout the summer. This year the Pittsburgh Zoo and Mad Science had our campers enthralled with their presentations.



### **Programs**



The Lauri Ann West Community Center is proud of its partnerships that bring new and exciting programs for both children and adults. We value our long term relationships such as Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and Soccer Shots and we've enjoyed new partnerships with Spark Junior Tennis and Assemble Pittsburgh.

In 2023 we have worked to expand our adult programming. After a long hiatus, Rug Hooking and Mah Jongg classes have returned with great interest. Pickleball remains one of the most popular programs that we offer with both Beginner and Advanced Beginner lesson options.

This year also saw the beginning of partnerships with local service organizations. Foxwall EMS has begun BLAST Babysitting classes for pre-teens and teens. In this program each student ends the class with a CPR certification.

From members Sean & Marcy McGovern: "The programming offered at Lauri Ann West Community Center for our children has been exemplary. From the A&E Program, to Summer Camps, and specially offered workshops the programs are led by passionate professionals who strive to create a fun and engaging environment. Being a part of these experiences has broadened our family's sense of community within Fox Chapel and we are so appreciative of the experience."



people took a pickleball class in the past 12 months

125
different programs
offered in the past
12 months

## Community

Our motto is "You Belong Here" and one of our goals is to be the Center of our Community. We offer many activities and events that strive to bring the residents of our community together.

We had beautiful weather for our Wine Wednesdays this year. This free and open community event is held on the patio with local musicians provided by Band Together.

Our Car Cruise has become a family favorite. Sponsored by Chip Ganassi Racing, the event draws over a hundred car enthusiasts and has become one of our most popular family-friendly events.

Our bi-monthly speaker series continues to provide engaging topics to pique interest, educate and provide perspective.

We are also continuing to support and build partnerships with other organizations to help support their missions and provide service to our community. Some of these partners are:

Township of O'Hara
Second Harvest Community Free Fridge
Cooper-Siegel Community Library
Fox Chapel Newcomers Club
Fox Chapel Area School District
Fox Chapel Area Adult Education
Allegheny River Trail Park
Fox Chapel Rotary Club
Fox Chapel Garden Club
Fox Families Care



# Did you know that the Lauri Ann West Community Center..

Is open: 7-days a week

360 days a year

over 90 hours per week

Has been open for seven years

Averages over 10,000 visits per month

Our primary service area includes the six Municipalities that comprise the Fox Chapel Area School District: The Townships of: O'Hara and Indiana and the Boroughs of: Fox Chapel, Aspinwall, Blawnox and Sharpsburg

# Join us and be a part of our next 40 years!



1220 Powers Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412.828.8566 | questions@lauriannwestcc.org www.lauiannwestcc.org | @lauriannwestcc.org