



**2021**

**Year of Champions**





## 2021 YMCA Champions Book

### Richard (Dick) and Karin Henkle

Every year we select a person to dedicate our YEAR OF CHAMPIONS. Our 2021 YMCA Champion Book is dedicated to **Dick & Karin Henkle**. Dick has been a long-time supporter of our YMCA.

One of the best attributes to my job as the CEO is meeting GREAT people. I met two of our most genuine supporters of our YMCA in Dick and Karin Henkle. It gives me GREAT pleasure to announce our dedication to our 2021 ARC Book of Champions in their honor. Dick and Karin are also members of our YMCA Hall of Fame. Being a YMCA, we rely heavily on contributions and support in many ways from the community. Like the old adage says, "it takes a village to raise a person."

Well, it takes a BIGGER village to support a YMCA. Not every community is as blessed and fortunate as ours to have the support, dedication, and commitment from many who help keep our doors open. I first met Dick here at the YMCA playing racquetball with Ed Lewis. Ed introduced me to

Dick. Ed was probably our #1 fan and did an incredible job of connecting us with key people. Ed always told me about the story about Dick Henkle.

At one of the Board meetings, Dick proposed raising the rates to the YMCA.

During the invocation, the preacher said during his prayer that he hoped Dick wouldn't have to use the tools he brought to the meeting. Those

"tools" turned out to be a gun and knife. Dick brought them because he was sure people would be upset about raising the rates. I finally met Dick one day while he was playing racquetball with Ed. What a GREAT man! Then, through the years, I

have met with his wife Karin and him several times for our YMCA Capital Campaigns. The Henkle's were ALWAYS there to lend a helping hand and provide the support they could. They went above and beyond each time. I appreciate the Henkle's so much for providing the necessary leadership for our YMCA in the early stages. This included making those tough decisions in order for the YMCA to survive financially. **YOU GUYS ARE TOO AWESOME!! THANK YOU Dick and Karin!**



**Chad Knight – CEO**



**2021 YMCA Champions Book**  
**ASC, MERIT, SERVICE, TEAM, HEALTHY HEART, and**  
**MISSION CHAMPIONS**

**ASC:** *No All Stars as the Covid pandemic didn't allow us to run our Campaign as normal with volunteers meeting with our special friends to donate.*

**Mission:** *Volunteer, Donor, Member, Team Member, or special friend who helped excel the YMCA mission for multiple venues and events!*

**Chris Vargas, Terry Darden, Sue Knight, Doyleen Barnes, Frank Urteaga, and Dillons**

**Merit:** *Volunteer, Member, Donor, or special friend who helped the YMCA*  
**Mike Popejoy, Lisa Hort, Jane Johnson, True Value, Manuel Terrazas, and Valerie Terrazas**

**Team:** *Team members who went above and beyond the call of duty!*  
**Remi Vargas, Kyrah Lozano, Rafaella Murillo Rocha, Dana Polson, Eli Handsaker, Robert Heath, Manny Gonzales, Shane Purdy, Alec Erskin, Arnold Dominguez, and Jacoby Hurtado**

**Service:** *Team employees who hit a benchmark year*  
**Krystal Richardson (15 years) and Dana Polson (40 years)**

**Healthy Heart:** *Checked in the YMCA and/or DOME over 200 times.*  
**Quang Nguyen (511), Steven Lynch (414), Bryer Livermore (368),**  
Ignacio Ibarra, Ernie Ornelas, Miguel Alba, Daniel Herrada, Miguel Rodriguez, Leonardo Tena, Jack Crook, Marvin Alvarez, Aaron Aguiniga, Leslie Wilds, Jay Edwards, Richard Burns, Michelle Hawkinson, George Latt, Blake Wasinger, Jose Alvarez, Juan Tristan, Patricia Barahona, Javier Valdez, Angel Sanchez, Chad Weston, Andrez Hernandez, Derrick Dahlke, Miguel Alba, Blake Wasinger, Carlos Jimenez, Mariana Macias, Chad Knight, Daryl Hamlet, Sebastian Kyaw, Jordan Johnston, Daniel Monarrez, Victor Viurquez, Rosalia Del Rio, Andres Sanchez, James Corbett, Raul Munoz, and Timothy Ko

**Past Board President:** *Joey Ramos*



## 2021 Ambassador Champion

### Richard Burns

This award is given to an Ambassador of our YMCA. Ambassadors have been with the YMCA for five or more continuous years! The Management Team select a special Ambassador who helped the YMCA in some capacity, uses the YMCA on a regular basis or is just a great advocate for the YMCA. **THANK YOU RICHARD!**

Richard Burns has been associated with our YMCA since 2004, but he has even more years as a volunteer with us. Richard has been a true AMBASSADOR for our organization long before he hit the five-year mark as a member to deserve that title. To receive this honor, the recipient must help the YMCA in some capacity, use the YMCA regularly, or is simply a great advocate for the YMCA. Richard can check all three! Richard does all our window tinting for our YMCA and



DOME. He noticed some windows were still blinding our members and took it upon himself to get the job done. More importantly, since he uses the YMCA every morning, I leaned on him to be my special birdie. We were having some issues in the weight room with some members. It got intense at times. I would come down and try to decipher who was telling me the truth. It became a problem. So, I solicited Richard to watch and give me valuable insight from time

to time. This helped resolve the issues! Check the first two items. Now the last item with being

an advocate. Richard believes in our mission, offers his talent and time, and is a true advocate who knows what the YMCA means and stands for. We couldn't ask for a better Ambassador than Richard. That is why Richard Burns is our AMBASSADOR CHAMPION for 2021!



**Chad Knight – CEO**

## 2021 “Dana Polson” Employee Champion

### Royal Taylor



This award is given to one of our special team members who provided outstanding leadership, great customer service, extremely dedicated to their profession or job at the YMCA and exemplified our core values throughout the year. **CONGRATS ROYAL!**

Where do I begin as I tell you about Ms. Royal, or Mom as I like to call her? She started her Y journey as a Site Director at Buffalo Jones (BJ) in 2008. Ms. Royal worked there for a couple of years nurturing and mentoring those kiddos after school. That was until the YMCA added the Four-Year-Old program. She transitioned from BJ to the YMCA in 2010 and became the Lead Teacher. With the inception of this program, she had quite the task of setting up the classroom and getting it filled with kiddos. Once it was full, they were off and running. It’s a joy to see her in her element with the children each day, teaching, instilling, and guiding them to learn. In May 2015, she was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer. This was devastating news

everyone around. However, Ms. Royal NEVER wavered from her daily schedule. She endured 12

grueling weeks of aggressive chemo, had surgery, and moved right into 12 weeks of radiation. She finished her radiation on the day her 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild was born. In fact, she walked across the hospital to be there when he arrived. She continued to be at work every day as each of those kiddos kept her motivated

and gave her a reason to fight. Between her students, her family, and our Heavenly Father watching

over and protecting her throughout this process. . . **she fought!!!** Ms. Royal weathered the storm. Unfortunately, she continues to get chemo every 3 weeks to keep the cancer

at bay. She’s at work every day, doing what she loves regardless of how tired or run

down she might feel. She always says, “The kids and parents need her.” I am

unbelievably grateful for the example she has set for me and many others over the years. I’m so lucky I get to call her mom while others call her Ms. Royal, teacher, miss,

and, my favorite, Grandma. We’re truly **BLESSED** to have such an **AMAZING** staple within our Y community. Ms. Royal is our hidden gem here. THANK YOU so much for all you do and continue to do for all the kids, parents, and team members. We LOVE you!!!

**Krystal Richardson – Chief Administrator**





## 2021 “Mary Ellen & Glen Woods” Humanitarian Champion

### Mary Ellen & Glen Woods

This award will be given to person who demonstrates the best campaigning efforts throughout the last year. At the YMCA, we have many fundraisers including the Annual Support Campaign, Capital Campaign and many other special events that deal with volunteers asking the community to give to our special cause. This person has displayed the passion, worked hard, and has the YMCA in their heart! ***YOU ARE TOO AWESOME***

It was time to rename our award to our recipient this year, Mary Ellen and Glen Woods. A few years back, Mary Ellen asked about her award. I didn't know what she was talking about. She said they gave an award to her years ago and wondered if they still awarded that. So, it is only fitting we make it official and keep doing this



in her honor. During one of my conversations with Mary Ellen, she told me that she ran the YMCA for a few months while they didn't have a

CEO. As I stated in the beginning of this book, about meeting some great people, the Woods are near the top of that list as well. It always gave me a GREAT feeling when I would call and visit with Mary Ellen and Glen. I

would normally visit with Mary Ellen first, then she would give the phone to Glen and we would catch up. They would

always ask how the YMCA is doing. I LOVE calling and visiting with both Glen and

Mary Ellen. They are so FULL of life and LOVE supporting our YMCA. I have known them to live in Arkansas most of their retired life. Now they are back home in Garden City. I was hoping to stop by after they moved and visit with them more, but Covid hit. Then Glen got sick, and they both were not feeling well. I just kept striking out. Now they're immortalized here in an award dedicated to their help that will be rewarded every year to come! This is only fitting to give them that home run recognition year after year. They deserve it for being such GREAT supporters of our YMCA! **THANK YOU MARY ELLEN AND GLEN WOODS!**



***Chad Knight – CEO***



## 2021 Family Champion

### Curtis & Dee Lamb

This award will be given to one of our family members who have demonstrated our mission and core values in their commitment to the YMCA through programs or general membership. These Champions are dedicated to Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility! **CONGRATS CURTIS & DEE!**

When life throws you a curve ball, you sit on it and drive it the other way. At least, that's what we are taught in the batter's box for baseball. In life, you must be able to take on the challenges that present these battles. It is tough to hit a curve ball and the Lamb's have been thrown plenty of curve balls over the years. Despite

that, they have come out on top with some hits. Curtis

and Dee Lamb are the Family Champion for 2021 for

many reasons. First, they come in together to do their workout in the early mornings and on the weekends. Curtis and Dee come in together and

usually will have a tag-along. Nora is their 12-year-old granddaughter whom they have raised

since her mom passed away. Curtis and Dee stepped into that batter's box and hit a home

run! They are not just raising her; they are **ALL-**

**IN** with everything she does or wants. For Nora, since she was only 11 at the time, they requested

permission for her to come into the YMCA and work out early with them. That would include coming

in during our 24-hour period which required a special

waiver to be signed. Of course, we granted this allowance because they are right there with her. If there were a Grandparents of the Year Award, they would easily get my vote! Dee has coached her in our volleyball program for years and now is heavily involved in her traveling club volleyball program. I am sure there are more

activities and programs where they are all involved, and I know Curtis and Dee are right there with Nora. **GREAT JOB LAMB'S!**

**GREAT JOB LAMB'S!**

*Chad Knight – CEO*







## 2021 Character Development Champion

### Jonathan Reyes, Jr

This award will concentrate in the Child Care Department. The YMCA will recognize a youth in the program, a counselor or a volunteer in our program who best exemplifies the YMCA values of Caring, Honesty, Respect & Responsibility.

***GREAT JOB JONATHAN!***

Jonathan Reyes, or Junior as we all call him, is a bright spot in the Childcare Program! We can count on him to show the Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility without fail and with all participants. He is always one of the first to welcome new faces. It never takes too long before he makes a new friend. With a contagious smile and lots of laughter, even the shyest kids are soon in the middle of a game or craft project. Junior participates in everything imaginable. It didn't matter whether it's crafts in the room to games in the gym. .he is always ready and willing to try new things. With a positive and can-do attitude, Junior is consistently eager to learn something new. If anyone is sad, hurt, or angry, he will try to offer a smile for them. Best of all, Junior continually has a hug for the staff when they come on shift. It makes every staff member feel like they are making a difference. Yet it is Junior who's making an even bigger difference in our lives. Keep up the good work, and never lose your contagious smile or that infectious laughter! It makes the world a better place! You, Junior, make the world a better place!

***Valerie Terrazas – Child Care Coordinator***

## 2021 Youth Development Champion

### Dylan Ledezma



To highlight one of our focus areas, the Youth Development Champion is given to a member, volunteer, staff person or participant who demonstrated Youth Development. As one of our focus areas, it is important that we are striving to develop the youth in our community.

***GREAT WORK DYLAN!***

Normally, this award recognizes someone who helped transform or developed our future leaders in our youth! Well, for 2021, we have an exception and I think you will agree with my reasoning. While working at the Welcome Center one day,

I checked in Dylan Ledezma. I was **ASTOUNDED** and had to double-check the picture in our system. After confirming what I saw in the picture, I took a look at who was standing in front of me. His picture in our system is below in the red shirt. He has lost over 120 pounds! I asked if this was him and he said yes. When you talk about transformation, it actually happened with Dylan. I asked Dylan what he has done for all his weight loss. He said during Covid, he didn't just sit around and do nothing, he went to work on his body. He said he would do multiple workouts a day and would walk, ride his bike, and just be busy all day doing something. It blew me away. I thought to myself, this guy deserves to be recognized for his accomplishments, and if only every youth would have that same mentality. And not just youth, but adults as well.

When you stop and think that 85% of our population doesn't exercise, the fact that this young man took it upon himself to make a life-changing event in his life is amazing. Now, getting back to the check-in. Dylan wasn't coming into the YMCA alone, he brought a friend. He was encouraging his friend and helping him make some lifestyle changes. How **AWESOME** is that? Now, I hope you understand why Dylan Ledezma deserves to be our **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION!**



***Chad Knight – CEO***



## 2021 Healthy Living Champion

### Victor Viurquez

To highlight one of our focus areas, this award is given to a member who demonstrated Healthy Living in his/her workout or commitment to the Y. This member was dedicated to health and is a living proof of their workout at the Y. **KEEP IT UP VICTOR!**

Victor is like the Dos Equis guy in the commercial. He is beyond fascinating! The guy from the commercial says he is the most fascinating guy in the world, and Victor is challenging him for that! I nominated Victor for our 2021 Healthy Living Champion after listening to his story of recovery. Victor told me it all started when he was working in the oil rig business. He was always busy working but made time to exercise and stay healthy. To me, that is pretty impressive because you work hard in the field, and staying committed to exercising says a lot. Then things changed.

that put him out of  
be disabled for the rest of  
years old. This tore him  
be able to walk again, yet  
wrong! He made it a point  
and be active again. He



committed to exercising says a  
Victor had a major accident  
commission. They said he'd  
his life. He was only 30  
up! He wasn't supposed to  
he proved everyone  
that he was going to walk  
refused to be laid up his whole

life. Victor recalled how he gained weight, could hardly move, and just kept laying around. He had enough. He was going to beat the odds and do what made him happy. He committed to exercising. Now Victor is walking just fine, and lifting weights like no other in our strength room. He also loves to use the sauna and steam room which helps make him feel good. He uses the punching bags to take out all his frustration with his boxing gloves on. He is trimmed up and has lost over ??? pounds. His spine is almost back to full strength and he has returned to work on a limited basis. This is due to him still having some limitations because of his injury and disability. But, Victor has chosen to make a difference in his life and that is why he is our **2021 Healthy Living Champion!** Great job Victor!!

**Chad Knight – CEO**



## 2021 Partner in Health Champion

### Heartland Cancer Center

This award honors companies for their Corporate Membership with our Partner in Health program. More importantly, this company has devoted endless time and commitment to their employees and to the YMCA to help promote healthy spirit, mind, and body in the workplace.

#### CONGRATULATIONS HCC!

Central Care Cancer Center has been chosen to receive the “Partner in Health” award for 2021 due to its outstanding commitment to the Garden City Family YMCA and its employees. Central Care Cancer Center currently has a total of six memberships with the YMCA. They are constantly promoting our partnership to their staff and continuously recruiting new employees to be involved with the YMCA. Here at the YMCA, companies can choose how much they wish to pay towards their employees memberships. Their company is on our Level E corporate rate. Basically, that means they pay a total of \$25 to the employees' monthly membership rate. Which also means the YMCA pays \$5 of their fees, equaling a total of \$30 in savings for each employee. This allows for the employees' rates to vary from as low as .75 cents for a young adult to ONLY \$23 for a full family rate. Isn't that incredible?!? It allows for their employees to have much easier access to forming a healthier lifestyle. They continue to help promote this more active lifestyle to their employees and allow them to offer it at a very low cost. It has ALWAYS been a joy to work with them as partners in health due to their dedication in their employees' health. The relationships that have formed and evolved due to this partnership in the first place have been wonderful. I'm always so thankful to work with people and organizations such as the Central Care Cancer Center. All of this is because of their devotion to their employees, as well as the community around them. Thank you Central Care Cancer Center for your

support! I hope to have many more years to share in our partnership.

*Crystal Erives – Membership Director*





## 2021 “Darlene Mathias” Volunteer Champion Derrick Dahlke

This award is given to a volunteer who demonstrated outstanding service to the Y in the past year. This could be a program volunteer, board member, committee person or general volunteer activities.

Volunteers are the BACKBONE to our operation!

***THANK YOU, DERRICK!***

Derrick is a man of service beyond belief! From time to time, we will have Myer Fitness show up in the middle of the night to work on our equipment in both the Cardio and Strength Center. When this occurs, Derrick has been in the YMCA several times and always offers to help move or do whatever

needs to be done! One time we needed to move and shuffle around all the equipment in both locations. Derrick was there to help and never wavered one bit.

Then, we had our Summer Food Program, and we desperately needed someone to volunteer and control the new entrance as well as combat any problems. I called Derrick and he didn't hesitate to help. He showed up much earlier than he was supposed to and stayed even longer. He was beyond AWESOME! He noticed the work we did on the inside and came down to volunteer for the next few weeks on the inside bagging groceries. He even brought along his wife. Then, we had our Spooktacular Golf Tournament. I had

a few volunteers lined up to help on a few holes that required us to have a volunteer take the money and make sure the golfers weren't cheating. Well, during the morning of the event, I had two volunteers get sick and could not make it. I was scrambling and trying to think of anyone to come help! It was an all-day affair. I called the one and only volunteer I knew that wouldn't hesitate. I called Derrick Dahlke. He showed up! So, now you understand why Derrick Dahlke is our **2021 VOLUNTEER CHAMPION!** Thank you, Derrick!



***Chad Knight – CEO***

## 2021 Social Responsibility Champion

### Jane Johnson



To highlight one of our focus areas, this award is given to a member, volunteer, staff person or participant who demonstrated Social Responsibility. It is one that focuses on giving back to the Y and our community. As many people know, it is our responsibility to make sure good and positive things are happening.

***GREAT WORK JANE!***



Jane Johnson is an avid pickleball player who comes in three times a week for at least two hours each time. For her, during these two hours, there is no outside world. In August 2020 Jane suddenly lost her grandson, one year later on August 13, 2021, Jane's son Casey Becker was found dead due to suicide. Jane was healing physically and mentally from a recent surgery, and having this devastating news was unthinkable. After a few weeks, Jane and the other ladies were back into the routine of playing pickleball. One of the ladies brought to my attention that there was a gentleman in

Wichita who worked at the Chicken N' Pickle and gave her some lessons. She proceeded to tell me he could come to Garden City to put on a clinic. I called this gentleman and got some dates secured for a pickleball clinic. During this time, Jane was talking to the instructor and asking how she could belong to the USA Pickleball Association. He proceeded to tell her and give her all the information;

Jane came up to me with this AMAZING idea to get a youth pickleball league going and to make it FREE! Jane wrote up a letter to send to companies both locally and nationally trying to get support, grants, donations, and whatever was possible to help this league take off. Jane's goal was to help at least one child who is struggling in life itself. If this could save one child, then the goal was achieved. On the last day of the clinic, Jane was working with the instructor and a couple of ladies while listening to the radio. A particular song came on that Casey used to sing to her. I told her that he was there with her, and it was a sign that what she was doing was ASTOUNDING!



***Stacy Castoe – Dome & Operations Director***



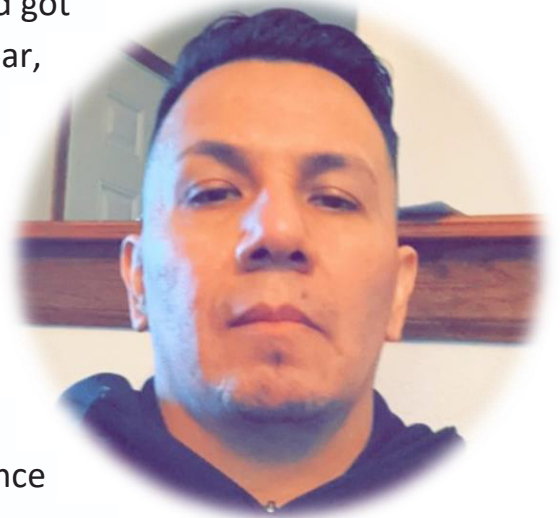
## 2021 Member Champion

### Carlos Jimenez

To recognize and highlight one of our members based on their workout history, relationship building within the YMCA and community or serves as a great advocate as a member. This special member demonstrates all three of our focus areas and follows our core values.

***YOU ARE TOO AWESOME CARLOS!***

Throughout the year, I remind my Management Team to write down some nominees for all the Champions we award at the end of the year. Then, we will sit down in January and discuss the winners for each award as team members will submit their nominees. Every year it never fails that we are missing several of our Champions. So, I encouraged the team members to do some investigating and researching before going back to the drawing board. As I did my due diligence, I kept coming across the name of Carlos Jimenez from our Healthy Heart Champions. The Healthy Heart Champions are members who have checked into the YMCA/DOME over 200 times in the year. We have a nomination list where we keep track of past nominees and ideas for the future. His name was listed so I checked him out. He had made the cut before and got nominated but wasn't selected at that time. This year, I nominated Carlos because of his dedication and commitment to working out. In fact, he has made the list **EIGHT** times! He first cracked into the list in 2013 with 230 visits. This past year he visited our YMCA with 246 visits. This is 68% of the year he is working out. I am positive it is probably more than that as I have seen him doing other things outside of the YMCA. Carlos has been a member since 2012 and made the list eight out of ten years for a whopping 80%. That is AWESOME!! You must also consider only 15% of the population exercise. So, now you can see why I nominated Carlos Jimenez as our **MEMBER CHAMPION for 2021**. Keep up the great work and keep coming to the YMCA for your workout Carlos!



***Chad Knight – CEO***

## 2021 Committee Champion

### Rod Harper



The Committee Champion is given to volunteers who served on a YMCA Committee during the year and demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and service. This Champion went above and beyond the call of duty and was always there to support and provide input for the Department Head. **THANK YOU, ROD!**



Rod Harper has served on our Building & Grounds Committee for the past 15 years. This committee has not changed much over the years, but we have been fortunate to have almost every member stay throughout the years. None quite as committed and dedicated as Rod Harper. Rod will ALWAYS be there for the meetings. I think I could count on one hand the number of times Rod has missed a meeting, not including my thumb! He has been very supportive and knows a little about buildings and grounds, especially the electricity. Rod started to serve on this committee when his kids were playing in our sports program. He would constantly come in to play basketball over the Noon hour. Yes, that is right, Rod and I used to battle it out on the basketball court. His boss, Terry Prince used to come to play as well with us. We have had many issues with our building over the years, including the changeover of LED lights. Rod first started in the gym and finally convinced me to change the old halide lights to the T8 fluorescent bulbs years ago. It made a HUGE difference. Then, he came up with a new bulb that we could interchange into the existing platform. It truly brighten things up. But. . .he wasn't near done.



He wanted us to do the whole building. I said we couldn't afford that. So, we started piece-milling it. We did the racquetball lobby and then started on some of the pool lights. Then, we were presented with a proposal to change all the lights to LED through a third-party company that covered the upfront costs. Rod was the first one to make that motion. Rod has been a GREAT volunteer on our committee who is always looking out for the YMCA's best interest! THANKS, ROD!!

**Chad Knight – CEO**



## 2021 “Mac Foreman” Courage Champion

### Mary Hamlin

This award will be given to a YMCA member, program participant or a volunteer who demonstrates courage in their activities at the YMCA. Whether it be a person who has severe arthritis, a person who is blind, a person who can't hear or a person who beats all the odds, we want to recognize his/her commitment to health!

**KEEP IT UP MARY!**



Your spirit tells a lot about your attitude and outlook on life. The word that keeps popping in my mind about Mary Hamlin is jovial. Jovial is defined as cheerful and friendly. Well, this fits

Mary to a tee! One morning I was up at the Welcome Center, then in walks Mary. As she is checking in, she wore a smile on her face and was upbeat. I mentioned it had been a while since I'd seen her. She told me she had cancer and is just getting back into her routine. The entire time, she held a grin and kept an upbeat attitude about her situation. How **AWESOME** is that? Mary has been a long-time member here at the YMCA. . .20 years to be exact!!!

Her dedication to our morning aerobics class is absolute. She

always has a smile on her face when she walks in the door, and it's beyond contagious. Mary was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago and battled through it all. She continued to keep her membership and, when she was strong enough, she came back to

her aerobics class. On top of that, she now does water aerobics in the evening sometimes. That is after she walks from her house to the YMCA, which is a few blocks away. Mary remains a HUGE supporter of our Annual Support Campaign throughout the years and for that, we say **THANK YOU!!!** Your battle with cancer has not been the easiest, but you have done it with dignity and grace. It takes bravery to fight through something there is no cure for, courage to lose your hair and continue to stand tall, fearlessness to endure the endless appointments and treatments that seem to never end, and incredible fortitude to not know what the future holds. YOU, MARY, are one COURAGEOUS women! We are so proud to

honor you with our Mac Foreman Courage Champion award!!! **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**Krystal Richardson – Chief Administrator**



# The BEST of the BEST MISSION MOMENTS

The next 12 pages signify the BEST of the BEST Mission Moments. Our Mission Moments are YMCA stories from our members that are heart-enriching, tear-jerking, life-changing, and mission oriented. The stories are then selected in our weekly Management Team meetings. At the end of the month, we vote on which story managed to express our values and move us the most that month. We know everyone has a YMCA story and we hope by sharing these 12 we can inspire others as much as they inspire us.





## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

January

# “The Toyota Jump”

Every year brings the joy of excitement for the kids who are receiving a free membership to the YMCA and DOME for Keeping our Promise (KOP). Well, this year after the repercussions of the Covid pandemic year, we were not allowed into the schools as each winner had to come to the YMCA to get their membership. This is where it gets real as every single kid in the entire school gets beyond enthusiastic. That's just when we tell them what we're there for. When we get to the part of announcing their names, the pure excitement can't be contained! This year was a little different, but it didn't defer their happiness. The Janas (Luke and Azlynn) kids were so eager, as they were jumping for joy in the lobby when I awarded them their membership. The beam in their eyes was pulling at my heartstrings! They kept asking me so many questions about whether they get to do this or that. I told them they can come anytime and do everything. They were so excited! Then they asked if they could bring their mom, dad, and even their friends. It was BREATHTAKING!!!! Thank you to all the KOP sponsors and everyone else involved in selecting the winners from all the schools. The KOP is probably my most cherished event we do for the community!

***Written by Chad Knight - CEO***





## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

February

### “Only Half Full”



On Wednesdays, we have a member appreciation special with “Donut-Worry Wednesdays” with donuts. Let me tell you, some members cherish getting their donuts on this day.

One of those members is Ace Harder. Our Member Service Associate would get a shake bar cup and have this donut wrapped up in a paper towel. I asked why she did this. She responded that it is for one of our members.

That member was Ace. I commended our MSA who made sure Ace got his donut and coffee like he wanted. I am not sure if he came on Wednesdays to work out, or just to get

his coffee and donut. Ace is an AMAZING man! He's determined

to make it to the YMCA even though he doesn't drive. His wife drops him off at the front door. Ace proceeds to walk into the YMCA with his walker in tow. Ace has been a member for 11 years and received the GOLDEN Membership which is free for him. Ace is 96 years old. Isn't that AWESOME? One day, Ace came in and I happened to be at the Welcome Center. He handed me an envelope and said, “I

hope you can use this.” It was a donation that Ace decided to give us with his deferred maintenance fee. I didn't open it immediately as we got his donut and coffee for him. This is a ritual that you cannot mess up. I filled in on a Wednesday one time and Meagan said when the donuts show up, get Ace's donut out. This is a cake donut with cinnamon and sugar. As he walked in, I had the donut ready and went to get the coffee. He said, "Make sure it is only half full!" I told him, "I gotcha Ace, Meagan made sure I had your donut and told me to only fill your cup half full." I went to my office and opened the envelope. I was flabbergasted by his gift. I went over to the Fitness Center to thank him and he said you are welcome!

THANKS, ACE!

*Written by Chad Knight – CEO*



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

March

# “Coming Together”

Since January 2021, about six to eight ladies started coming into the Dome to play pickleball from 9:00 am until about 10:00 am. This was every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These ladies were dedicated, no matter what the weather was. They wouldn't miss a day to play pickleball. Towards the end of January and the beginning of February, more and more ladies began to attend. At

this time, we only have two courts and two

nets. They were telling their

friends, their friends were

telling their friends, and it

kept going. I soon taped out a

third pickleball court for ladies.

They were ecstatic. Now there are

about 16-18 ladies that will come in

those three days a week to play, and they needed all the room they could get.

Just from coming three times a week, we now have a women's doubles division in

our Spring Pickleball League. It all happened at a great time as some were

hesitant because of COVID, but these ladies wanted to come out, stay healthy, and moving. This group of ladies has built a camaraderie between them, and they

have a great turnout in the mornings. On Wednesdays, we have a “Donut Worry” Wednesday, where donuts and coffee are provided, and the ladies will come into

the lobby and socialize. I could not be more excited for these ladies and blessed

to have met each and every one of them.



***Written by Stacy Castoe – Dome & Operations Director***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

April

# “Amazing Organization”

I serve on the Tyson Scholarship Committee. I didn't really have the time to serve this year, but let me tell you, I am glad I went. I guess God has some mysterious ways to put you in places at certain times. This one was needed. This year when I attended the meeting and review of the applicants, one of the other members had quite the story to tell me. Itzel Rodriguez who works at the college and does some Spanish translation on all our fliers for years. I was thanking her for taking the time to help us out. Her answer just floored me. She said “I am thankful for the YMCA and the opportunities it provided for my family. I love receiving the fliers and seeing all the work you are doing for the community. I cherish the YMCA and believe it is an amazing organization and I am thankful for you to provide me a membership and do your fliers. You are helping me as well.” Pat Sanders, who is the Tyson lead person on the scholarship echoed her thoughts and that she has a membership just to help donate to the cause. After I fought some tears, I told her “Thank you” because that means a lot to me right now. I told Itzel we have Mission Moments every week in our team meetings, and I was going to nominate her story this week and I am sure it will win. I believe we have the most unique organization in Garden City and the YMCA serves a ton of people in our community who value their membership like Itzel and her family.



***Written by Chad Knight – CEO***



2021 MISSION MOMENTS  
May  
“COME BACK LATER”



In Childcare, there are always a variety of activities occurring throughout the day.

They vary from crafts, swimming, sports, cards, games in the gym, playground visits, group activities, and considerably more. Every day we try and engage the children in different activities. In addition to

that, we attempt to keep them in the same age group if enough kids warrant

separation. Callan Kramer and Derrick Martinez



were two intuitive boys who loved playing together. They were always excited to try new things. One day, we started a new art project with everyone. Well, let me tell you, this new activity had both so engrained and focused on it. They just had to get it finished. One evening after Callan had gotten off the bus, he and Derrick were in the middle of a craft project. Both were listening intently to the counselor

giving instructions then immediately got busy creating! As they remained engrossed in their task, their parents showed up. That wasn't good. Neither child wanted to leave at all! They were so intent on finishing their craft at all costs that they wanted the parents to come back later. The parents compromised with them

saying they each could have a few more minutes. The very same thing would happen other evenings too when the kids were playing games, especially any activities in the gym! As a Child Care counselor and leader of our program, it makes us feel fantastic when the kids do not want to leave. It always makes our job fun when we have such devoted kids. THANKS, Callan and Derrick for keeping focused on the project and activities. We love your passion!!

***Written by Valerie Terrazas – Child Care Coordinator***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

June

# “Ginny to the rescue”

When we started the Summer Food Service Program, we had no idea of the sheer magnitude this program required through volunteers. Our first week was a disaster, but somehow, we got through it. It was madness. At times, it was organized chaos, to say the least. Ginny Ortiz and her family attended the program and witnessed we were struggling to do everything. She said we will be here next week to help and her husband, Manuel showed up with her

and they killed it. They ran the outside line, controlling and managing that part for us. They were AWESOME! Ginny didn't stop there. As Valerie says below, she stepped up and helped in various ways but more importantly served as an advocate for our program. You saved the program! THANKS, GINNY!



Ginny Ortiz is a dedicated volunteer and advocates for our Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). From helping to sort food before Sunday distributions to passing out meals, she has played an active role. She has been instrumental in spreading the word about this vital community program. The SFSP provides weekly meals to anyone under 18 to help replace meals provided during the school year. Ginny helped sort frozen foods during week two of the program. She along with members of her family, helped from then on. She advocates for the program by spreading the word to families that can benefit from meals. She has been the link between groups at Kenneth Henderson Middle School and the YMCA to help provide manpower too. With a smile on her face and lots of patience, she helps guide 7th and 8th graders through sorting, carrying, counting, and distributing hundreds of meals. Having a generous spirit, Ginny is always willing to jump in where needed! Thank you for making a difference in our community!

***Prelude by Chad Knight - CEO***

***Written by Valerie Terrazas – Child Care Coordinator***





## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

July

# “Nothing Can Hold Me Down”

In June 2020, Jeremy fell and ended up with a spinal fusion, a compressed spinal cord. He went through surgery, since the right side of his body went numb. After his surgery he started doing rehabilitation to accumulate his strength again. He was determined and dedicated to getting stronger, not only physically but mentally as well. After six and a half months, he was released from rehab and ready to start working out at home. He was motivated and determined to do this, keeping his head up and getting stronger. This is what led to him signing up for a family membership to the Garden City Family YMCA. He was ready to work out. On March 24, 2021, Jeremy came walking up to the Dome with a huge smile on his face. It made me smile just seeing him ready to go. I greeted him and asked what area he'd be going to. He responded with, “I’m going to go walk a little bit and then go lift some weights.” On that day, he had the biggest smile and was so positive given his situation. Absolutely nothing was going to stop him from working out or rebuilding his muscles. When life throws you a curve ball, your end goal is all up to you. It’s great to see from a member/friend that they chose to have a positive outcome. Way to go Jeremy!



***Written by Stacy Castoe – Dome & Operations Director***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

### August "No Way"

During the summer of 2021, we were fortunate and blessed to receive a grant from the State of Kansas to serve seven days of meals to the community for free. Yes, that is right, I said free. Completely free! We had over 1,500 people from the community fill out applications and we served 56,756 meals this summer to over 1,000 children. It was fantastic and unforgettable!! To pull this off, we relied on volunteers. We had several team members step, regular people

everything for the family members team come and these volunteers meals the first just how much needed. He drive his food home help. This was Frank



that volunteer for YMCA, as well as from our entire assist. One of received his week and saw help we proceeded to and come back to Urteaga. He continued

to help every week following, bringin along his wife and two sons to help too. Another week while he was volunteering he saw his sister in Dillons and told her to come through the line. She said "There is no way I can receive seven days of meals and snacks for my kids." Frank told her, "Yes you can, and it is free." She was still in disbelief until she came through and got her food. She could not believe it and was just amazed. This was an outstanding program for our community and a huge need. The YMCA was grateful we were able to provide this for everyone even if everyone thought it was impossible. It's all thanks to people like Frank who came to offer their assistance. We are so grateful he decided to come back that first day. You're INCREDIBLE Frank!

***Written by Chad Knight – CEO***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

### September

# “Tamara’s Excitement”

Tamara is my niece, and she started our four-year-old program this year. She would attend school half of the day and then come here to our program the other half of the day. Anytime I would pick her up, Tamara would get out of school completely excited to come and see Ms. Royal. All she would ever talk about was Ms. Royal. How greatly she loved how Ms. Royal would get involved in her learning experience. Plus, all the fun things she got to do here at the YMCA. Tamara would wake up in the mornings gabbing about how she just couldn't wait to see Ms. Royal. When she first started, one of her favorite things to do was swim. She even asked her mom for a new swimsuit all so she had one to keep here at the YMCA all the time. That way if she forgot it at



home, she could still swim. Now she's here all day and learned how to write her name. She enjoys drawing family pictures and writing her name on her illustration. Tamara comes in the morning to stop by my office and tell me what she did yesterday. As her mom and I talk for a few minutes, she is always tugging at her mom or standing by the door telling her, “Okay mom, let’s go see Ms. Royal.” It is the cutest thing ever. I love how our programs help children and their parents with everyday life.

***Written by Crystal Ibarra – Membership Director***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

October

### “Road Rally”

Since I started  
I have always  
in Corporate  
my  
first time was  
Each year I took  
events I enjoyed. The



in August 2013,  
participated  
Cup. Alazai's,  
daughter's,  
two years ago.  
part in all the  
year Alazai started, she

did everything she loved and didn't. She would help us get as many points as possible since we didn't have participation in certain areas. I had never done Road Rally until about three years ago. This year Alazai and I talked Adolfo into not only participating but being the driver. She and I were scared to get a ticket, but we knew he wasn't LOL. We had no clue this man knew of so many companies and helped us with the answers. This scavenger hunt was a fun activity for coworkers, but this was truly fun as a small family of three. We all laughed, guessed, teased, and went home tired. We all had our strengths in different areas. One of the funny things we had occur was when Alazai was one of the second people to get the second clue, but, as she was running down the hill from hole eight, she stepped into a hold. She laid there hoping no one saw her, and we could not stop laughing about it. After that, she tried talking me into running to get clues. However, we knew that was negative because I would trip on my own two feet. I wouldn't have needed a hole to do that for me LOL. Adolfo was a great driver who got us where we needed and even came up with the answers sometimes, but this mailman missed a few turns sometimes. Alazai and I couldn't stop teasing him because he delivers mail all over the city day in and day out. We ended up in fourth place, but it was all worth it, and we all still get to laugh and joke about it.

***Written by Crystal Ibarra – Membership Director***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

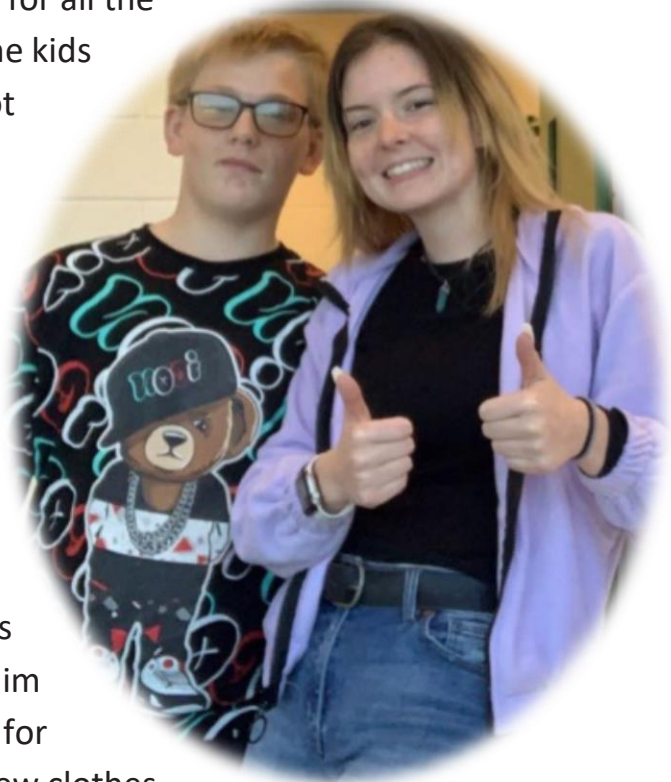
November

# “I’ve Got Your Back”

My name is Braylee Pitzer and I work at the Dome as a Member Service Associate. I have met Lucas Willette several times from working at the Dome and he always coming in to play basketball. When I heard Lucas had been nominated for the Freshman Homecoming candidate and for all the wrong reasons, this made me upset. The kids

nominated him to make fun of for not having enough money to buy nice clothes. On the day I heard why Lucas was nominated I went home and was telling my parents and my dad’s friend about the situation; I told them I was cancelling my nail appointment so I would have enough money to take him shopping. My dad’s friend donated money and so did my parent’s so when I would take Lucas shopping I would have enough to get him some extra clothes to have, not just for homecoming. I spent almost \$200 on new clothes

for Lucas to wear anytime, he seemed so happy and grateful for what I was doing. When Braylee told me this story, the first thing I thought of was “What a great Mission Moment Story” to share. It seems like nowadays people, especially kids will not go out of their way to help someone struggling. I’m so proud of Braylee and taking the initiative to help Lucas rock as the freshmen homecoming candidate. Way to go Braylee and Lucas!



***Written by Stacy Castoe – Dome & Operations Director***



## 2021 MISSION MOMENTS

December

### “Steak Man”

Anytime I cover and work at the Welcome Center, it never fails to give me surprises. This day was no different. However, instead of operation problems, missing paperwork, or membership set-up issues, this dealt with a relationship one of our team members established with our members. I was working the welcome center one early morning shift and a member brought in a package. This

member was Frank Chavarria. It was a sack full of groceries with

a big steak and some fixings. I asked, "What is this for?" He

said, "I promised Meagan that I would bring her a steak

with all the fixings, but she would have to cook it." Being

me, I wanted to know how Meagan deserved to get a

free steak with everything. He said, "I was up here one

morning telling her about the steak I fixed, and she said

she wanted one. I told her I would get her the ingredients,

but she would have to cook them." Isn't that AWESOME! He

said, "She always takes care of me and treats me right." It was too bad Meagan

wasn't here to cherish the moment, but I sure did! I explained to Frank that she is

gone right now, but I will put this in the fridge in the meeting room and let her

know. It is moments like this that are the best for our team members. We're

always preaching to build those relationships and help our members. We have a

creed called GYM-GEM. This stands for Greet Your Member and Go the Extra

Mile. Obviously, Meagan has done that for Frank! And now Frank is returning the

favor by buying her a steak. I LOVE IT!! This is what we want our team members

to do to build relationships with our members. GREAT job Meagan and THANK

YOU Frank for doing that.



***Written by Chad Knight – CEO***



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YMCA