



Historical Highlights of the YMCA

- 1927:** The YMCA of Vineland was officially incorporated. It was located at Cresci Hall, 745 Landis Avenue. A site which saw considerable renovation over the next 24 years.
- 1933:** The YMCA started summer day camping at Parvin State Park's Thundergust Pond.
- 1940:** The membership was doubled with the addition of women and girls as members.
- 1943:** A "Serviceman's Lounge" was set up as headquarters for the local USO. These facilities were used by 1,780 servicemen each month.
- 1950:** The Y's Men's Club and a Women's Auxiliary were organized.
- 1951:** Because of moving from the Cresci Hall site, activities were curtailed. The former Presbyterian Church at 620 Wood Street became the new home of the YMCA, which soon reflected continuing expansion. These expenses were funded through public subscription and generous gifts from Mrs. Victor Durand and from Mr. and Mrs. George Blizzard.
- 1955:** Edward and Dorothy Campbell underwrote the cost of 55 acres on Garden Road as a permanent site for the Y's Camp Merrywood.
- 1960:** With membership at 1,000, the YMCA again needed a new home. The organization moved to purchase the site at 1159 East Landis Avenue at a price of \$36,500, and a campaign to raise \$406,000 for a new building was soon underway.
- 1964:** Phase one of the building program was completed, and the new building was dedicated in April. The Cunningham-Durand Gymnasium was a gift of Marie Dumas Durand and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Cunningham. The Campbell Natatorium was a gift from Edward and Dorothy Campbell; an additional \$310,000 was raised from the community.
- 1970:** Even with adjacent land donated to the YMCA, the urgent need for a new facility prompted the launch of Phase Two of the building campaign, with a \$400,000 goal.
- 1972:** At last, the YMCA had a large, complete facility to call home. This was accomplished through a beautiful \$575,000 addition to the existing physical department.
- 1980:** The Fitness Center was expanded by \$100,000 to include a locker room with whirlpool, steam room, and larger exercise area. A full service stairway elevator was donated by the Gannett Foundation. Significant additions continued at Camp Merrywood.
- 1997:** Funds are raised for a second indoor pool, expanded locker rooms with whirlpools and saunas, and other new facilities were completed, along with a full size elevator.
- 1999:** \$200,000 is raised as the YMCA of Vineland opens up Riggins Fitness Center with new state of the art fitness equipment. The new Fitness center doubles in size to serve the growing need of Family exercise.

- 2000:** The YMCA of Vineland continues to grow in serving more families and individuals outside of Vineland area, The Board of Directors agree and approve the Association name change to the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA to better reflect our service area. Our facility in Vineland retains the name as the YMCA of Vineland.
- 2001:** The Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA forms a partnership with the Millville Housing Authority to re-open the Old Millville YMCA Building after being closed for 10 years. The building re-opens after a 1.5 million dollar refurbishment as the Holly City Fitness Center. The YMCA teaches all kindergarten children in Millville how to swim.
- 2002:** Membership continues to grow as 5,000 members are now served at the YMCA of Vineland.
- 2003:** Meeting the needs of youth and families of a growing popular activity, the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA raises \$125,000, with the support from the Cumberland County Improvement Authority, City of Vineland, and community donors, and opens a skate park for skate boarders and in-line skaters. It's unique programming of the park as "family oriented" sets a trend for future skate parks.
- 2006:** Community support helps the YMCA surpass the \$70,000 goal for the annual Strong Kids Campaign to support youth programs and the "Y Cares" financial assistance program, where no individual or family is turned away based on their inability to pay.
- 2008:** YMCA Board of Directors raise over \$500,000 for facility renovations to include the construction of the regions first Family Fitness Center and the Galetto and D'Onfrio family free weight room, workout area is now over 5,500 square feet. Fitness Facility includes a parent/child interaction exercise area. The YMCA now provides Before and After school services to all public elementary schools in Vineland.
- 2009:** Our Y surpasses 6,000 members who come to the Y for fitness, classes, swimming and more. In fighting high childhood obesity in Cumberland County, the BeFit program began in the Bridgeton School system, providing "structured" recess to children in first and second grade. Vineland was chosen as one of five target communities to work with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as the NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids. This is a three-year grant with a potential of \$200,000 to be used to help fight obesity in the City of Vineland. The YMCA of Vineland and the Vineland Health Department are leading the drive.
- 2010:** Our Y rebrands itself in conjunction with the Y of the USA through a new logo and new platform to promote strengthening the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y invests in a \$180,000 New Climate dehumidification system to better serve our aquatics programs through air and water quality. Our Y begins in the Fall the 7th Grade Initiative which offers a free speciality membership for Saturday evenings at the Y to all 7th graders who attend school in Vineland. An additional \$20,000 in new Fitness equipment including a rock climbing treadwall to meet the needs of growing memberships. Our YMCA now serves 875 families with a facility membership.
- 2011:** The Y receives a grant through the LiveStrong program by being one of only a few Y's across the country to provide the LiveStrong at the Y program for cancer survivors. LiveStrong at the Y is a free, 12-week, small group program for cancer survivors to build on their "new normal" after cancer treatment. During the late Spring and early Summer our Y replaced its boiler system. During shutdown in August, the Y began phase one of paving by having the front parking lot redone. The front of the building was upgraded. In September, the Y introduced its first Latino program for families, Salsa Sabour y Salud, teaching them about a healthy lifestyle.

For youth development, healthy living and social responsibility