

Annual Report 2025



AKRON AREA YMCA

Challenges Unveiled; Achievements Unlocked

In 2025, we felt the pinch of reduced funding for child care initiatives that had been awarded for COVID recovery, as well as a waning workforce interested in part-time work that fit with our wage scale. We also learned of the impending retirement of our current CEO, and saw that our young leaders were ready and willing to tackle and embrace whatever came their way. We are hopeful for the future.



Jill Kolesar
President and CEO



Russ Holmes
Chairman of the Board

2025 was a year filled with celebrations and challenges as we focused on R.I.S.E.

We **RISE** together;
We will ignite **INNOVATION**;
we will focus on **SUSTAINABILITY**
and, we will create an
EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE For All.

With this in mind we completed the Waste Water Treatment Project at Camp Y Noah. We completed a wellness area refresh at our Riverfront Y.

We exceeded 1 million branch visits. We bid a retirement farewell to Tony Grimes, VP of Community and Belonging.

We experienced the post pandemic financial pinch and are committed to overcoming this. Evolving and adapting is a must as extinction is not an option.

Our communities need us!

2025 Highlights

1 Million Visitors

Our CEO set the goal of our branches recording **1M** visits in 2025. Challenge accepted and won by the third week in December 2025. The lucky “swiper” was from our Green Family YMCA.

Kids Y-Tri – Year One!

Our Wadsworth branch initiated a new event for **youth** where they participated in three events back-to-back: Running, Swimming and Biking. The first-ever youth triathlon, for our Association, gained the participation of 60 athletes - with big plans to expand the event in 2026.



Racing Through 2025

Three of our branches hosted their most successful 5K events in 2025. Kohl Family YMCA invited four-legged friends to their P.S. I Love You race, while Firestone Park re-routed their Tread Together event at the Bridgestone Test Tire Track. Meanwhile, Green Family YMCA gobbled up the goods by assisting with the long-standing Green Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning – an event that they will totally run in 2026.



Neighborhood Back-to-School

Our Firestone Park branch was the catalyst and cornerstone of an inspiring community event centered on giving neighborhood students a good start to the school year. While partnering with the Firestone Park Community Center, and area businesses, the team was able to provide school supplies, clothing, healthy snacks, and useful information, including a financial literacy workshop, free bus passes, and discounted memberships to Sam's Club for parents.



2025 Highlights

Green Celebrates 25 Years

One of the first additions to the newly formed City of Green was the creation of the Green Family YMCA. Set as the cornerstone of the community, the Green Y soon became central to activities and partnerships involving the City and its residents. In 2025, the Y celebrated a quarter-century of success by holding an anniversary celebration preceded, a few months prior, with their first ever Quarter Auction, to play up the theme and earn dollars for continued improvements to the branch.



Students Get a Break

Our partnership with the University of Akron continued in 2025. College students, currently enrolled and caring for their families, received a significant break in child care costs. The University, through a partnership with the Akron Area YMCA, subsidized 75% of the child care tuition for these student parents.



Camp Y-Noah Turns 95

From its first summer in June 1930, serving over 800 boys, Camp Y-Noah has expanded to over 300 acres and the ability to welcome girls, community groups, and alumni to enjoy the lake, equestrian center, and a brand-new and energy-efficient wastewater treatment operation. In 2025, Camp Y-Noah welcomed 7,653 friends through staple programs including Day Camp, Overnight Camp, Outdoor Ed, and a year-round Equestrian program.



Strategic Priorities

In 2025, we prioritized **innovation** and re-committed to always being a welcoming place for all.

We dipped our toes into AI and re-committed our hearts into our Community and Belonging initiatives.

We stand strong in our service for ALL.



9,394 Swim Lessons taught

940 Children completed
SAFETY AROUND WATER

2,587 athletes in our
Youth Sports programs

836 Employees!

Although we did experience some challenges in filling positions throughout the year, 2025 recorded 836 employees on the Akron Area YMCA payroll. Most of these staff members were part-time, filling important positions in Membership, Child Care, Camping Services, Aquatics and Group Exercise instruction.

54,837 Members / Participants

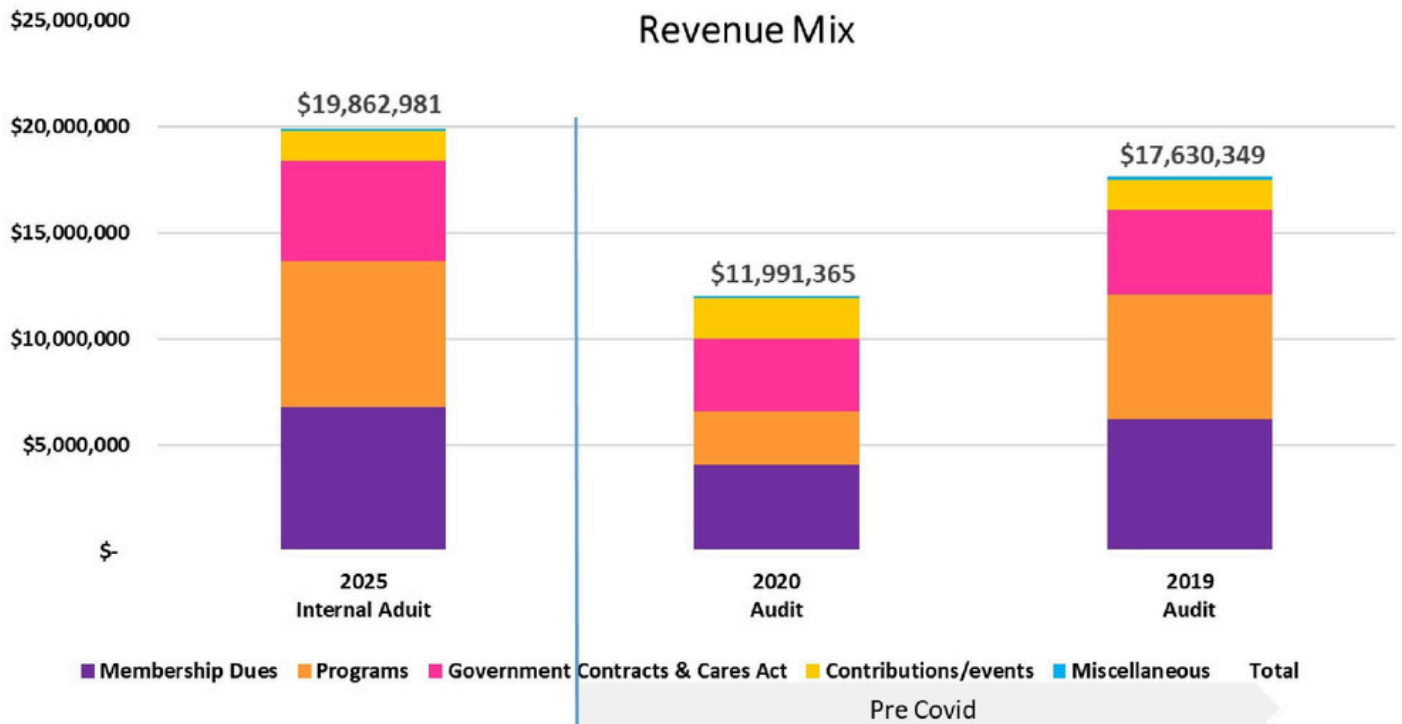
846 Donors

124 Volunteers

62 Y-Strong Members



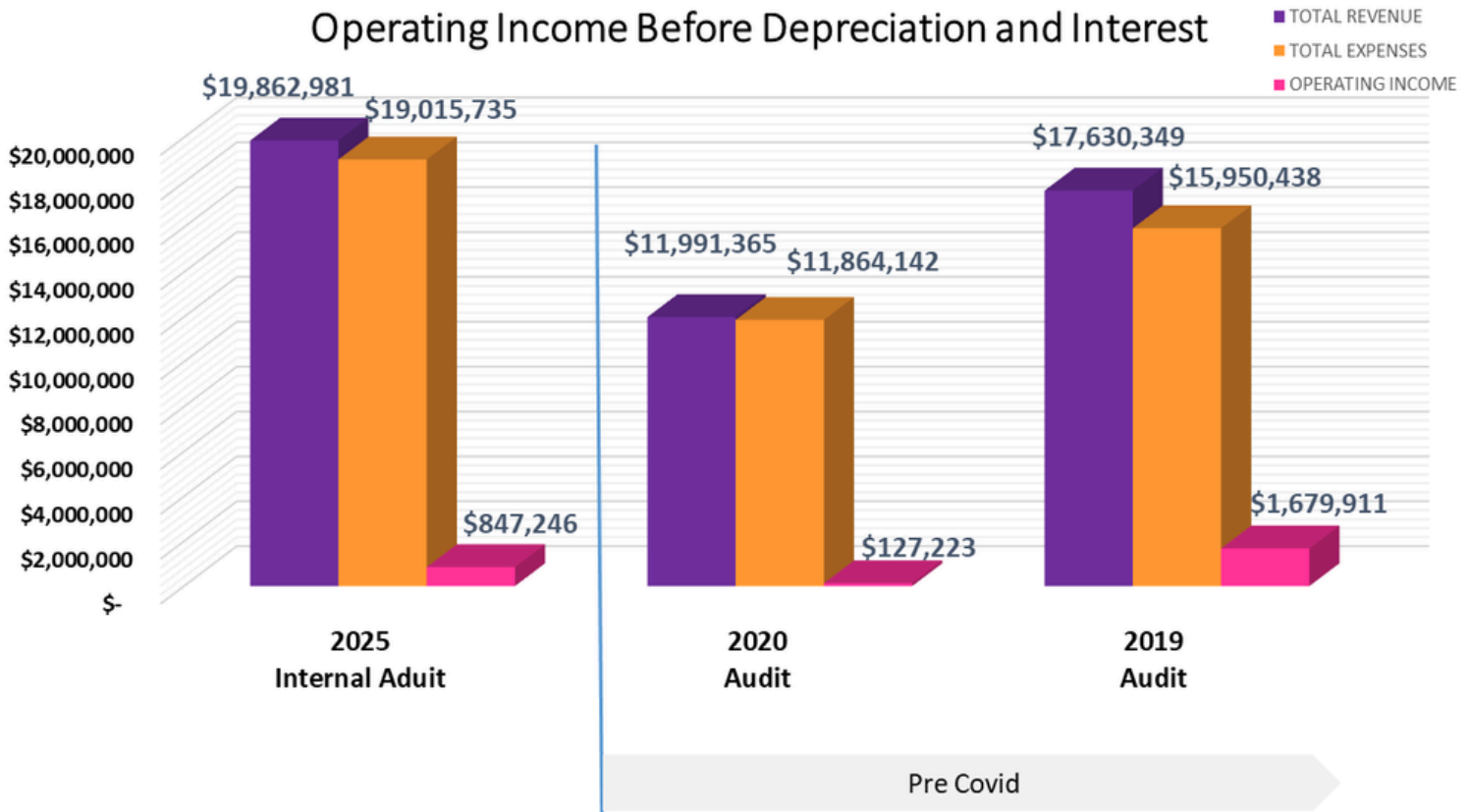
Financial Picture for REVENUE



2025 Growth in Membership and Programming has replaced our reliance on pandemic government relief, creating a balanced income stream: **35% Programs, 34% Membership, and 31% Fundraising/Grants.**"

Financial Picture

Operating Income



While our revenue has shown resilient growth of **11.2% over pre-pandemic levels**, we are navigating a fundamental shift in our industry's economics. Pandemic-related disruptions have left a **permanently higher cost base**, with expenses rising **16%** over the same period—outpacing our top-line growth."

AKRON AREA YMCA

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Kris Westbrook

Branch Advisory Leaders

**Akron Rotary Camp
Camp Y-Noah
Child Care
Firestone Park
Green
Kohl
Lake Anna
Longwood
Riverfront
Wadsworth**

Brooks Ames
Julie Caruso
Keith Heilmeier
Dan Francis
Valerie Wolford
Tammy Munroe
Karen Bakita
Angela Travarca
Hannah Flannery-Grant
Beth Kilchenman

Branch Directors

**Akron Rotary Camp
Camp Y-Noah
Child Care**

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Teresa Ellison,
Ronette Moss,
Dawn Giovanni
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Hayley Rayl; Kristy Prebish
Lisa Ennis (District Exec)
Jim Sawin, Kevin Murphy
Paiton Hardy
Ryan Reavy
Amy Phillips

**Firestone Park
Green
Kohl
Lake Anna
Longwood
Riverfront
Wadsworth**



Association Leadership

Jill Kolesar
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Beth Kelley

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Ken Hoyt

Chief Human Resources

Holly Duplain

Chief Financial Officer

Brian Bidlingmyer

Chief Development Officer

Amanda Howard

District Exec. EC&E

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Controller

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Director of IT

Judi Christy

Director of Marketing

Serving Summit, Portage and Medina counties