

# Connecting People and Community



## TAKODAH YMCA 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**As we look back at 2019**, the focus of this Annual Report, we think of a year filled with many of the traditional successes we all have come to expect from Takodah Y's camp, travel and outdoor education programs. As this report shows, we saw strong enrollments and were fortunate to see another strong year on the fiscal front with regard to programming and fundraising revenues as our team of staff worked hard to control expenses. We completed our Master Plan for Camp and Artie did several presentations at closings and a webinar to debut where we see Takodah in the future. Feel free to reach out to learn more, as it is a highly detailed plan developed with a lot of hard work by staff and Takodians.

Last summer we also had the opportunity to begin two new exceptional programs. The first was "Fill the Duffel". This program was done in partnership with the Keene Family Y and the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative. The three organizations developed a program to get 20 kids from Keene Housing to either Camp Takodah for 2 weeks or to the Keene Family Y's summer day camp. These kids came into the programs free of charge, with everything they needed in their trunk/duffel for Camp. They were given the opportunity to be a kid at a camp and in a program they may never have had the opportunity to attend. They were able to enjoy camp, learned more about themselves, made new lifetime friends and experienced all Takodah had to offer.

Project 141 also kicked off last summer. 141 is the number of kids who received some level of financial assistance in 2019. Project 141 was undertaken as a teaching opportunity and to help support those in need who were coming to Takodah. While Camp was in session, time was taken to talk to campers about the fact that many of their friends were here due to the generosity of others. They learned the virtues of how philanthropy, the function of "giving, expecting nothing thereof", is a noble thing to do, and it can be as simple as kid's helping kids. In practice, if campers, with the blessing of their parents, were willing to donate all or part of their leftover store monies, their donation would go directly to Project 141. The outpouring of support was overwhelming to say the least. Both of these programs have touching stories of generosity we could have never imagined and anyone who was involved could tell numerous stories of the right kind of humanity, driven by our kids.

In the midst of all this, we on the Board also saw a big change. July 2019 brought to an end, the "third times a charm" tenure of our Board President William "Bill" Parkman. The third times a charm phrase comes to mind due to the fact that Bill is, at least to my knowledge, the only person elected to serve as Board President three times. For the record, his first two terms were cut short by two different deployments with the United States Navy Seabees. Bill, thank you for your selfless service to our Country. Despite these obstacles, Bill served tirelessly, selflessly and guided Takodah YMCA to countless successes, many times over some pretty bumpy roads. When you see him please join me in thanking him.

With today's current crisis, and as an untraditional part of this report, I would be remiss in not talking a bit about Takodah's current status. As our country continues navigating the challenges of a pandemic and racial tensions, Takodah YMCA stands strong in its commitment to our motto, Friendly to All and our values as a Christian organization. So, with a pandemic still hovering over us and after nearly 104 years of delivering life-changing programs to the youth community we serve, the Takodah YMCA's Board of Directors made the gut-wrenching decision and voted unanimously to not open

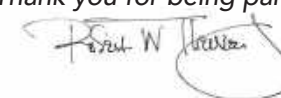
Camp Takodah this summer. We are also considering rescheduling or in many cases cancelling our Heritage Travel and Outdoor Education programs until such time that COVID is better controlled and treated. The Takodah families we serve and our staff are too important to us to ever think we may have been part of injury to any of them.

With regard to racial tensions, we as the Takodah Y and its Board look to reflect and grow to be better citizens. A cornerstone of Takodah programs has been to provide education to the youth we serve. To allow them to be themselves, explore their place in the world, grow, and learn about dignity, integrity, service and stewardship. The sign entering Camp which states, Future Leaders at Play, holds so true to what Takodah Y is building, leaders. Our commitment to never stop learning as to how we can improve ourselves naturally carries to those we nurture.

With all that is going on, I close with facts and hat in hand. The Takodah Y, with so many programs closed or deferred, is facing approximately a \$1.2 million operational loss. The Board and staff have been working hard looking at cost savings, grants, loans, and COVID related government programs as ways to reduce that number. We, as of this writing, have an approximately \$500,000 shortfall with some options, requests and ideas still awaiting answers. Regardless, more than ever we need our entire Takodah family to rally and support all that you have grown to love and believe in. We need our donor's help with not just your traditional support, but to please consider digging just a little deeper. For Takodah families who have not traditionally donated, if ever there was a time, it is now. No donation is too small, none too large.

***Please help us keep Takodah viable  
and a part of our lives well into the future.***

*Thank you for being part of Takodah's family!*



## 2019 Board of Directors

**President** - Rob Therrien  
**Vice President** - Graeme Noseworthy  
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## Staff

**Executive Director** - Artie Lang  
**Camping Serv. Dir** - Ryan Reed  
**Asst. Camp Dir.** - Carlie Fischer  
**Heritage Tour Dir.** - Kathleen Batchelder  
**Director Outdoor Educ.** - Nick Wheeler  
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**Facilities Manager** - Keith Marinoff  
**Maint. Crew Member** - George Gould  
**Maint. Crew Member** - John Barber  
**Registrar** - Judy Teresi



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION

**From the moment students step onto camp,** nature plays a role in their Takodah experience. In 2019 Camp Takodah's Outdoor Education program served 2110 people and 29 groups consisting of school groups, weddings, non-profit organizations, corporations, churches, and specialized retreats such as our Women's Weekend and SCA Harpers.

Outdoor Education at Camp Takodah gave school children the opportunity to assert personal growth and allowed them to engage in appropriate risk taking. Children were given these opportunities with the support of Takodah staff to build their confidence, spatial awareness, physical strength and the ability to keep themselves safe in an ever-changing and unpredictable world.

Our staff created programs that deliberately focused on meeting the specific school's goals such as teambuilding, communication, bonding, conflict resolution, and leadership. This allowed time for students to participate in new activities for the first time such as the high ropes course or swim in a lake. This is powerful and meaningful. A teacher from Fuller School told me about a student who was shy at school; "He's found his voice at Takodah. It's amazing to see him take the lead". I have witnessed many times, teachers commenting that a student has thrived, 'come out of their shell' taken risks in group activities by problem solving in team building that they would not do in the classroom.

Success of students at Takodah's Outdoor Education program was achieved in 2019 due to the tireless, energy, dedication of all the staff, and teachers who invested their time and commitment to serving the youth in our community. Thank you for going above and beyond! The skills you have taught them at Camp Takodah will have been transferred into their school life and home life!

***Children will have a better understanding and connection to the natural world in multiple ways.***



# HERITAGE TRAVEL

**Celebrating the history of our communities and country continues** with Heritage Travel. With our students, we work to promote character, autonomy and self awareness. We work to offer students the opportunity to discover a connection to their community and country through both educational learning and a journey of self-discovery.

Each spring and fall Takodah YMCA Heritage Travel staff and volunteers travel with 7th and 8th graders from the Monadnock region to explore both the beginning of our country and our government. We see places where Declarations of Independence were made, where ideas, which forged and formed our country, were spoken. We walk in the footsteps of explorers and patriots. We discover the humble beginnings of our forefathers, read the words of great men and woman of vision, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice defending those words.

Along the way we make new friendships, discover hidden talents and step outside our comfort zones. We grow and learn that we are so much more than our little New Hampshire towns. Every year students come home with a new sense of understanding of the world beyond their classrooms. They develop new relationships and bonds with the adults who travel with them.

For many students, Heritage Travel is the opportunity of a lifetime, their first trip out of New Hampshire, first time going or staying anywhere without a parent and for some it delivers the inspiration to carry them into their futures.

***We at the Takodah YMCA thank the staff, teachers, volunteers, families and most importantly, the students who invest themselves in and support our work with our youth.***



# SUMMER CAMP

**Takodah is fun!** It's a chance for kids to try new things, like sailing, climbing, crafts, or sleeping under the stars. We hear it from kids and cabin leaders all the time; how much fun they had. It's almost always the first question parents ask when they pick up their kids at the end of camp: Did you have fun? And, the answer is pretty much always YES! That's because we're good at fun. But, that's not what Takodah is about.

We exist to help kids discover who they are and what they can achieve. After a couple weeks of camp, we send them back into the world with the friendships, confidence, and character needed to reach their full potential.

Parents often echo the sentiments of Katherine, who sends her kids to Takodah every summer – and who recently sent us a heart-warming 'thank you' message:

*Dear Takodah,*

*I wanted to thank you. Thank you to all of the staff over the years who have created a safe and fun environment for my children to experience your incredible camp. The memories that each of them have made have left an indelible mark on them and have helped shape them into the beautiful humans they are today. Being a friend to all, learning how to work through all kinds of situations, not having the electronics around them all the time, respecting others, taking on chores and keeping to a schedule, having quiet time and needing to write letters home to explain all of the great things going on, climbing mountains, achieving the "Grand Falloon" and getting the "dark knot", singing songs and acting like goof balls . . . and all of the hugs. Watching the kids running from camper to camper and counselor to counselor to say hello at the beginning of each session and share tearful goodbyes at the end of each session has been amazing throughout the years.*

*Thank you for the many years!  
Katherine*

Sure, camp is fun, but stories like these are why we do what we do. Hundreds of campers, just like Katherine's kids, grow stronger at Takodah. We see it every day. Campers develop independence, confidence, resilience, character, and empathy at Takodah. These are the skills that are critical living a good life. And, these are also the skills that allow Takodians to make the world a better place.

## Our Statistics

1556	.....	Campers
56	.....	More campers than previous year
77%	.....	Retention rate (national average is 50%)
94%	.....	Excellence rating
100%	.....	Refer to a friend rating
81%	.....	Pre-registration
97%	.....	Of campers said camp helped them make new friends, develop character and values, improve their self-confidence, and try new things

*23 Jackets awarded to celebrate 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-year anniversaries*



# FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2019, the Takodah YMCA continued, for nine straight years, to steadily improve the financial strength of the organization.

<u>Income</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020(Budget)</u>
Programs	\$2,805,093	\$2,900,729	\$2,949,724
Interest/Other	\$4,095	\$2,829	\$2,500
Contributions/Gifts	\$423,039*	\$226,390	\$265,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,232,227</b>	<b>\$3,129,949</b>	<b>\$3,217,724</b>

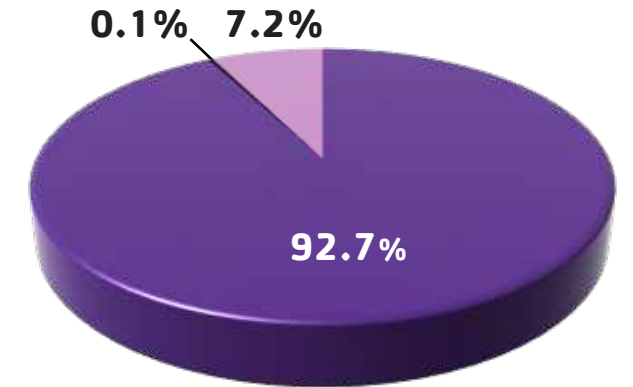
\*Includes a one time Endowment Contribution of \$202,000

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Program, net of staffing	\$1,231,279	\$1,220,366	\$1,319,784
Staffing, including benefits	\$993,128	\$1,076,173	\$1,222,785
Operating and Administrative	\$204,192	\$203,883	\$246,496
Financial Assistance	\$197,352	\$162,031	\$215,500
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,625,951</b>	<b>\$2,662,453</b>	<b>\$3,004,565</b>

**OPERATING SURPLUS      \$606,276      \$467,496      \$213,159**

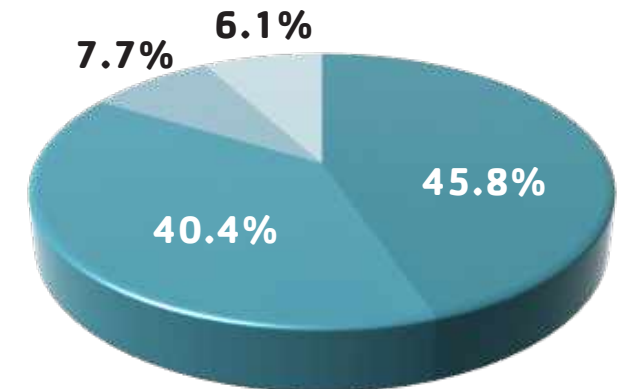
## 2019 Revenue

Programs	92.7%
Contributions/Gifts	7.2%
Investment Portfolio Gains	0.1%



## 2019 Expenses

Program Expenses, Net of Staffing	45.8%
Staffing, (Including Benefits)	40.4%
Operating and Administrative	7.7%
Financial Assistance	6.1%



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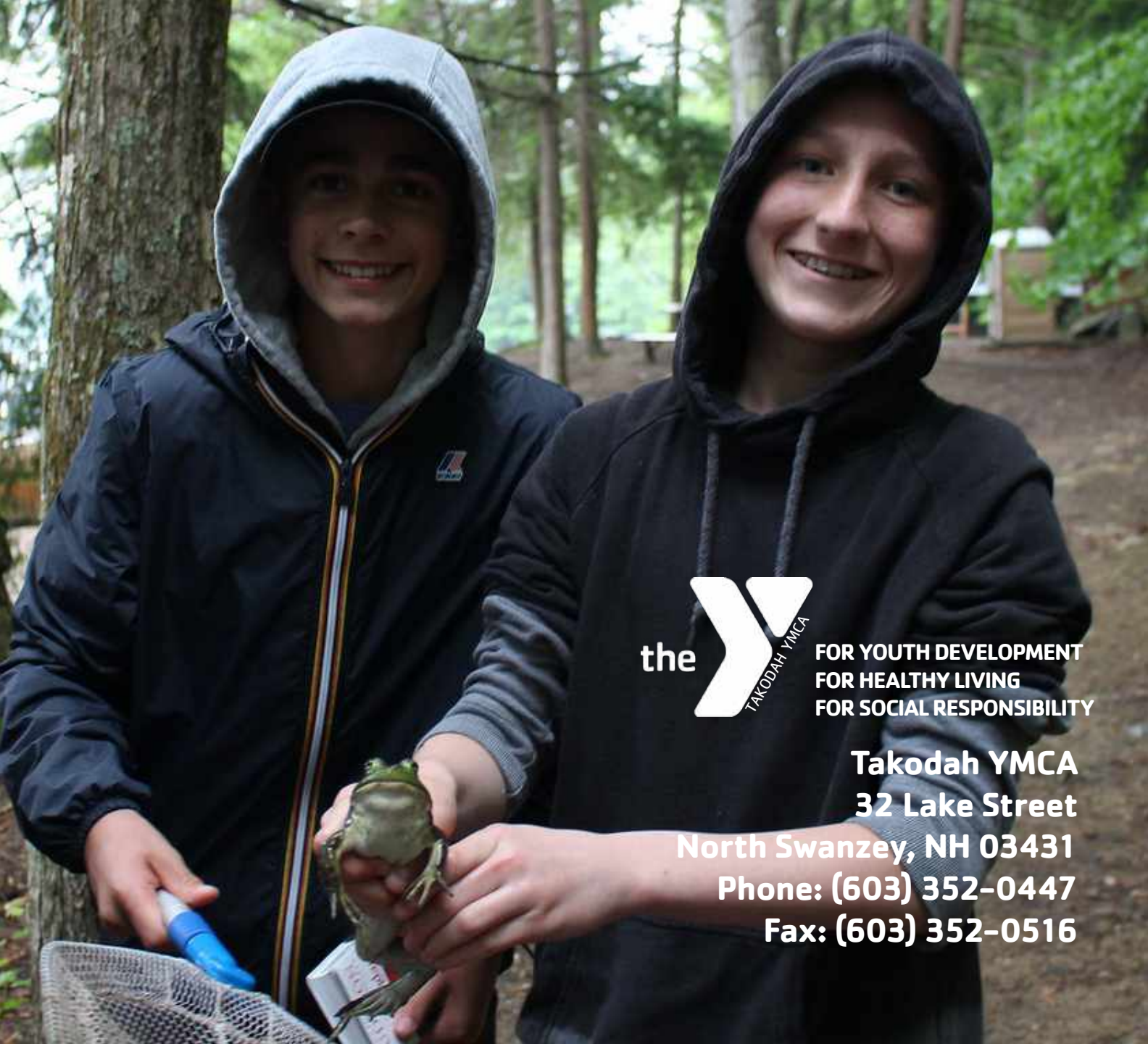
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**Thank you for your  
continued support!**



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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