FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2016 Monumental Moments

8th edition
Garden City Family YMCA

"Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect!"

–Zoey Sayward

Acknowledgments

The Monumental Moment book is a cherished book that highlights the different stories and impact we have on the community each year. A big THANKS goes out to everyone involved. Whether it was a staff person, volunteer, member or program participant, we transformed lives and made a difference. Usually, you just hear all the negative day in and day out, however, this book highlights all the positives displayed by every person involved. This book would not be possible or published without the support of all the following people:

All Staff

All Members

All Program Participants

All Volunteers

All Donors and Supporters

A BIG thank you to all the staff! This book would not be possible without your work. The staff helped create these relationships, striving for our three focus areas and putting our mission into action. We strive and love to build upon those life-changing, tear-dropping and heart-enriching stories. Keep up the good work!

OUR FOCUS AREAS:

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OUR MISSION:

TO PUT CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT BUILD HEALTHY SPIRIT, MIND AND BODY FOR ALL."

OUR MOTTO:

"WHERE VALUES MEETS VALUE"

Dedication

In dedication to Ray Fox

This year provided another superb list of special friends of the YMCA. I have always said we have the best community and support for our facility and programming which makes our local YMCA a special place for so many people in the community. Our Management Team nominated eight names this year for the book. As it has been in the past years, it was again a difÞcult decision for many in casting their vote. Some of our team members are very new to our facility and donÕt know the rich heritage associated with our YMCA. However, many in Garden City and the surrounding communities will remember and recognize this yearÕs INDUCTEE, Ray Fox. Ray was quite a well-known high school referee for years in Southwest Kansas, but also was a high school counselor, coach and building contractor in the community. He served in many capacities in local area high school athletic endeavors but Ray was also an avid supporter of the YMCA and the students, athletes, colleagues, families and friends in the community it serves. Ray was on the building committee in 1980 when the original racquetball courts were constructed. He also served as the ninth President of the YMCA in 1979. Prior to 1979, Ray served on the building committee for the gymnasium. Ray contributed to many of the endeavors here at the Y in hopes of improving the lives of the local community youth and their development into successful young adults. He also enjoyed coaching his sons ßag football teams in 1980 and 81. He also organized and initiated an unrelated AAU track and Þeld club during this same period of time that served the youth of Garden City and the surrounding area. He really believed that keeping young people involved and busy was an excellent way to help them grown and stay Òout of troubleÓ. The example he set during his time with the YMCA parallels the same mission the YMCA hopes to provide for our community and itÕs young people today.

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We do not remember the daysÉ We remember the moments that make our days!

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“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said **; people will forget** what you did **; but people will never forget** how you made them feel **.” ~Maya Angelou**

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CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER

Chapter 1

January 5	Old Faces, New Year	Krystal Richardson

One of the reasons I am so blessed to have the job that I do, is because of the relationships I have built with members, parentÕs, kiddos and participants. I was super excited to see an old face today at the beginning of this New Year at our Welcome Center this morning. I knew I recognized her, but I wasnÕt sure if I was right! Then I had that internal battle of, what is her nameÉ.I know I know her! Her hair was longer and much more curlier than I had ever remembered, but I knew I knew who she was and I was gonna stand there looking like a weirdo until I remembered her name!

Wanda Casper had been a long-time member prior to health issues sidelined her and rendered her unable to continue her membership and water aerobics that she LOVED dearly. I was so happy to welcome her back and she was so excited to be back! She went on to say that her health is MUCH better and that she missed coming to the Y as this was her family, support and love for over six years. The Doctor told her she could use the pool and do her water aerobics with Darlene and all the others, as long as the chair lift works! She is an absolutely AMAZING lady who brings the spirit of the Lord with her wherever she goes and we are so glad to have her back!!!

“…she missed coming to the Y as this was her family.”

January 12	Tiny Blessings	Krystal Richardson

Every day during the week I have the pleasure of driving a route to Holcomb to pick up some kiddos in our program. Every day is a surprise as to what we might talk about, what they learned that day, the weather and sometimes they just take a short nap. On this day, in particular, Ean who is in Kindergarten was sitting next to Mattea who is in second grade, and they were chatting about the books that she had checked out of the Library. Ean took a particular interest in one about a hippo. I listened to see what was going to happen and miss Mattea started reading her book to him! He sat still and listened as she read it through the Þrst time and he asked a few questions about what some of the words were and wanted to be shown where they were in the paragraph or sentence. Mattea kindly showed him and proceeded to indulge his curiosity with pictures and words. Mattea was very kind and understanding as they did this through the whole book. Once they were Þnished Ean looked at her and said can you read it to me again? Mattea didnÕt hesitate as she started reading it all over again. I was absolutely blessed to that day to be doing what I do and being able to be a part of these kiddos lives day in and day out.

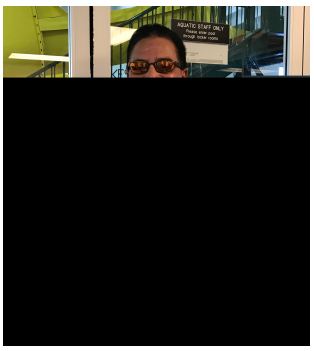
Chad received this email from Danny, an AMAZING coach in our program and I wanted to share with everyone:

ÒChad- Thank you so much for being willing to gather our current and former players for a picture. It's a great idea and I'm looking forward to it!
I Þgure this is as good a time as any to tell you that this will be my last season of coaching.! I made this decision last year and it was a hard one.! I really, really love watching our kids compete and having them learn the right way and having them carry that experience on to high school. We now have 2 former players in the boyÕs varsity starting lineup and would have 3 if Jose Acosta hadn't hurt his knee. His little brother Carlos will start as a freshman next year. I considered myself lucky each day to be his coach for 5 years.! Carlos is the rare combination of a kid who has incredible physical gifts but is also the most humble and coachable player I ever had.
The extra hour of practice after school each day and the games on Saturday are just too physically and mentally draining.! My stomach is in knots before and during each game, no matter what age level or our chances of winning.! I can't help it- it's just the way I am wired. During the 5th-6th grade championship game this year, we weren't playing that well and a girl on the bench asked me if I was ok because my jaw was clenched. She then put her arm on my shoulder and said "don't worry Mr. Chamberlain, we got this!" And they did!
I have had the opportunity to coach some amazing athletes but regardless of their ability, they are all great kids!! They have given me stories to tell for a lifetime.! I am glad your YMCA program gave them the opportunity to be part of a team and play with their friends. That is why Tim started our program.
I wish I could thank each of your ofÞcials personally for putting up with me. I am proud to never have gotten a technical for arguing, only for calling too many timeouts and forgetting to write 2 players on the lineup sheet.
I am hopeful that another teacher or parent will take over but am also realistic and will continue to encourage our students to play in your league.Ó

January 27	Sending Prayers	Krystal Richardson

On Tuesday I went with my mom to see the radiation oncologist. When we were done with the doctor they had to send us over to the hospital for a CT scan. On our way out we ran into Cynthia DeLeon who has been a member for a while and her girls have been in childcare, the four-year-old program, and sports. She came over and hugged my mom and told her what and AMAZING lady she was and that Kailee, her youngest still had the Christmas ornament that my mom had crocheted for her kids, and that she hangs it up every year! We asked how she and the girls were doing and she said they were doing ok and then she proceeded to ask us to pray for her grandma. She said that if she knew anybody in the world that would pray for others, it was my mom! Cynthia continued to explain the situation with her Grandma and how they were going to take her off life support that night. My mom said that the Lord would be with her and she will have many others praying for her too as she would call and put her name on the prayer roll at the temple. Cynthia hugged my mom again and said thank you for everything and she went in to be with her grandma. This was so powerful to hear from a member, parent and program participant that I had to share. If there is anybody who does her best day in and day out to put the "C" into her daily plans, both personal and professional, it is my mom! She has touched the parents and kids along the way and that is one of the things they remember about her and the program!

In 2016 I was approached by YMCA staff personnel!and asked if I would help raise funds for the Annual Support Campaign by volunteering my time. ! At Þrst,!my thoughts were oh no, not me, no way!! I must tell you the person that approached me was very persuasive and before I knew it, I had agreed to help.! I chose the "face to face" method.! For me, approaching family, friends, and strangers for monetary donations was totally out of my norm and at Þrst I was very uncomfortable but before I realized it I was Þnding it quite easy and met some wonderful people who



were more than willing to help.! Now, I reap the!rewards of knowing that I took part in something that made such a difference in the lives of so many unfortunate individuals, that otherwise wouldn't be able to enjoy the amazing YMCA facilities today. So, if you are ever asked to participate in this endeavor, I!encourage you to challenge yourself and just say "YES." You won't regret it!

~Charles Aguilera