



# In the Spotlight



## Miss Donna Shillingsburg Educating & Enriching Lives 25 Years Strong

Here at the Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County, you'll find a great deal of our members and employees have a long history with us, and many wonderful, unique stories to share. It's not unusual to hear, "My Grandmom took me here to swim when I was a kid," or "I started here as a lifeguard as a teenager."

Miss Donna Shillingsburg, who hails from Springfield, is celebrating 25 years with our Y, and has her own endearing story to tell.

For the past 20 years, Miss Donna has been teaching and enriching the lives of our Kindergarteners at the Ridley Area YMCA. Her journey with our Y has come full circle, as she began teaching in our four-year-old program at the Primos YMCA – this location provided preschool and camp programs for the Ridley Township community prior to the Ridley Area YMCA opening in the mid-1990s.

At that time, her son, Justin, was in Miss Debbie Mignogna's preschool class. Miss Debbie, too, has dedicated her career to the Community Y, and is currently the Executive Director of Child Care. Ever since, Miss Debbie and Miss Donna have put their heart and soul into caring for children in Delaware County.

In fact, the duo spearheaded the Community YMCA's Kindergarten program two decades ago.

**"We had a terrific child care program established already, but we saw a definite need for a full-day Kindergarten," said Miss Donna.**

**Miss Debbie recalled, "Miss Donna and I were determined to help our parents out, to ensure our Y children had a safe spot to learn and grow, from eight in the morning until five at night. So, we made up our minds, headed out to Harrisburg, and filed all the required paperwork with the Department of Education to establish a Kindergarten program."**

The rest is history, and Miss Donna said she couldn't be more pleased to be a part of this amazing Y program from day one.

**"I really enjoy caring for our young families and children," said Miss Donna. "Parents today can be very stressed out, and our Kindergarten program provides a stress-free environment for the kids to enjoy, plus helps to ease parents' minds knowing their children are receiving loving care and quality education. My hope is to prepare them for a good start as they enter first grade."**

When not in the classroom, Miss Donna enjoys reading, gardening, and especially, spending time at her shore home in Wildwood Crest.

We thank Miss Donna and Miss Debbie for all their hard work over the years, and look forward to growing together in years to come!