



# 2015 ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

## Nominee: Tri-Valley YMCA

Nominator: Mark Van Slambrook

*In the Nominator's words:*

The Tri-Valley YMCA has served the Dublin community in unique and creative ways, and I'm proud to serve on the board. In the past few years, Y volunteers and staff have partnered with local retailers to redistribute valuable household goods to low-income families. These contributions have eased the strain of poverty in families that really need the support the Y has provided. In the past



year, the program has expanded to include food, clothing, toys, and even gift cards from our donors for people to use for gas and other necessities.

Volunteers work at the Y every day, Monday through Friday, to sort donations and categorize them for distribution. Over the past year, over 4000 volunteer hours have been contributed to this project. There are many challenges including where to store donations (the Y has now secured two storage units on nearby Dougherty Road); how to staff the project when the Y staff is already spread very thin; and how to make sure that families who need us most are aware of this service.

While some might question whether or not there is a need for this kind of social service programming in Dublin, the evidence is clear. Over 2,500 families have benefited from this outreach program in 2015 alone, and the estimated retail value of the goods distributed is approximately \$1.5 million. Whether it's a coat, a couch, a set of pots and pans, or bedding and a pillow, the goods the Y is distributing are making life easier for families in Dublin.

I've never worked with an organization that is so dedicated to meeting the needs of the community. I am really proud of the Y's efforts to identify community needs and find ways to address those needs without asking for anything in return. My family and I have donated our own gently-used adult and children's clothing, toys and books, and even furniture, and we get a great feeling knowing that a family in our community will put those things to good use and rest a little easier knowing there are people who care. I highly recommend the Tri-Valley YMCA as the Organization of the Year.