

**Tide Swimming**  
**Status Report to the Virginia Swimming Board**  
**January 21, 2017**

Tide Swimming's year over year growth was approximately 46%. The growth was largely fueled by the two new locations that were opened in Chesapeake: the YMCA Greenbrier and the YMCA Great Bridge.

Our total membership is approximately 400 (we continue to add swimmers throughout the year). Of the 400, 76 are from our two Chesapeake locations. The generous grant we received from Virginia Swimming helps tremendously to offset the cost of our new coach we hired, Hayley Edwards. Coach Hayley is doing a tremendous job and continues to add swimmers.

Along with the growth, our Tide Swimming Athlete Outreach grew 500%. Last year we had zero of these athletes and now we have 5. As you are likely aware, Athlete Outreach is a USA and Virginia Swimming grant program that waives most of the USA Swimming registration fee (\$5 instead of \$70) and covers individual event meet entry fees. Swimmers qualify based on income with Medicaid eligibility, SNAP, or federal free / reduced lunch being the qualifying metrics. Two of the five came from our Chesapeake locations.

Furthermore, Tide Swimming, leveraging the YMCA's Open Doors Scholarship program, grew our number of swimmers on scholarship by 367%. The YMCA does not turn anyone away based on an inability to afford. If someone wants to be a member they can submit their income tax information to their Open Doors Scholarship Committee and the YMCA will award a % discount off their member fees. Several years ago the Tide Swimming Board of Directors decided to "piggy back" on this program by offering those Y members the same % discount on their Tide dues. We went from 3 Open Doors/Tide Swimming grant supported athletes last year to 14 this year. Six, or nearly half, of our grant supported swimmers train at our Chesapeake locations.

We are certainly pleased with the growth and excited to expose more young people to the great sport of swimming. The amount of growth we experienced this year was beyond our expectations and has certainly stressed our administration and management. We run very lean and you can imagine the questions asked and time required to properly integrate new families to the sport of year round swimming! We do our best and remain thankful to our Executive Director, Jennie Carder (who fields all of these calls), our existing families and our coaches who consistently give above and beyond their job descriptions and service hour requirements.

Many thanks to the Virginia Swimming grant committee to supporting us and we hope to continue to earn your support in the future. We have the potential

for more growth leveraging our Y partnership by politely asking for more lanes; we sometimes run waiting lists. Grant monies that we can use to offset payroll and the uptick in scholarship are greatly appreciated and financially meaningful.

Thank you for your support.