

YAKIMA FAMILY YMCA

2010 Partner with Youth Campaign Case Statement



For over 100 years the Yakima Family YMCA has provided recreational and social services to youth and families of all ages, ethnic groups and religious affiliations in the Yakima Valley. YMCA programs are designed to help individuals develop self-confidence, self-respect and an appreciation for their own worth.

The longevity of a successful community depends greatly upon the resources and opportunities available to its citizens. It is the goal of the Yakima Family YMCA to help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. We offer active older adults opportunities for social, mental and physical development. We develop programs to keep youth off of the streets, protecting them from negative influences.

Community support, both financial and volunteer, is the substance of our existence. Not only has it provided the foundation for our longevity and rich heritage, but has also enabled the YMCA to enrich lives through programs including swim lessons, day and residence camps, child care, youth sports, youth and family outreach, family programming, health and fitness and senior fitness.

We need to enthusiastically support the 2010 Partner with Youth Campaign. **Together we can build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.**

Aquatics Youth Swim Lessons

The National YMCA, located in Chicago, has put together a program called "Learn to Swim." This program is offered in YMCAs all over the world. It is designed for children ages 3-14, who may otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in free swim lessons. The Yakima Family YMCA offers "Learn to Swim Week" as a service to community members, but we need your help! This program is free to all participants and serves over 400 youth.

Camp Dudley (Residence Camp)

The excitement and energy among the campers and counselors at Camp Dudley can be described in one word, CONTAGIOUS! Each year, over 350 campers have the opportunity to attend a winter or summer session at Camp Dudley. Activities include sailing, hiking, arts and crafts, ropes course, camp-outs, outdoor education, and campfires. Financial assistance is needed each year to provide deserving campers an opportunity to experience a week they will never forget.

Eastside Sports League

Since the program's inception, over 850 community youth have participated annually in one or more of the sports programs. Each program is structured as a "neighborhood league." There is no cost for the youth to register for the programs, and parents are recruited to volunteer as coaches and team support. A T-shirt and a hat are generally provided to each youth participant. Most children live within walking distance of their program site. Fair play, skill development, teamwork, respect for others and community pride are emphasized over winning. Parents and coaches encourage the youth to focus on their education, so they can become successful in the classroom and on the ball field. With the financial support from the Partner with Youth Campaign, the Yakima Family YMCA can continue its collaboration as a community partner with the Eastside Sports Program.

Youth Outreach

Youth Outreach Programs such as CORE, Midnight Madness, SNL and ASPIRE, have provided many youth in the valley with safe, positive alternatives to becoming involved in negative activities. Each of the YMCAs Youth Outreach programs strives to encourage teamwork, self-esteem building, community service and leadership. This year, 20 youth participated in the CORE program and 85 in the ASPIRE mentoring program.

Youth and Family Assistance

Since its inception, the Yakima Family YMCA has strived to make membership available to everyone regardless of the ability to pay the whole fee. Financial assistance to families has always been an integral part of YMCA membership. Over the years, hundreds of families and individuals have had the ability to participate in membership activities and programs because of the Family Assistance Program.

Last years campaign was successful. This allowed us to expand the services we offer as well as enrich programs that were funded by the campaign. We cannot do it alone. We need YOUR help! Your investment is needed to continue to offer these services in 2010. This year's dollar goal is \$195,000. Please invest generously when asked.

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The Yakima Family YMCA seeks to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.