





Chris Angellatta
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Dear Friends:

The YMCA and our community shared a very unique experience in 2020. Despite all the challenges and heartaches of the past year, we look ahead to an exciting 2021. While we reflect on the past, we are also focused on building the future.

The Y has always been responsive and resilient. We may have had to close the doors of our facilities, but we opened our arms even wider. The staff and volunteers of the YMCA responded with an amazing spirit of service through some very difficult times. With your help, we took on new responsibilities, such as distributing food, providing emergency child care, and supporting older adults when they needed to stay home. These new responsibilities helped strengthen our resolve to do even more as we build a better future. Thank you for helping us get the work done.

We are building a future that needs the Y now more than ever. We are committed to building a future where every person has an opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The YMCA is once again a gathering place after months of isolation and inactivity. Our staff are re-engaging adults and families through healthy activities that foster growth in spirit, mind, and body. We are enhancing and expanding our food programs by engaging community partners and volunteers. We are deepening our impact on youth by providing positive social connections, nurturing role models and academic support.

Stories of impact in this year's Benefits to the Community will demonstrate what we can accomplish when a community comes together to build something great. Thank you for your support and dedication to the YMCA and our mission.



2020 STATS



36,799 people found a place to belong at the YMCA because of financial assistance made available through our Annual Campaign.



About 1,600 volunteers contributed to projects that helped strengthen our communities.

2,336 individual and corporate donors gave back to their neighbors by donating to the YMCA.





More than 2,239 people with disabilities discovered the joys of a healthy, active life through the YMCA's adaptive and inclusive programs.

A YMCA Grab-&-Go Supper program provided more than 12,000 meals to local neighborhoods where transportation is a barrier.



OUR MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.





BUILDING CHARACTER.

When Tyler Bennett started attending the Renaissance Pointe YMCA's Summer Day Camp program he was a shy, reserved middle school student. As he connected with other kids and Y staff, his personality began to shine and he grew into a respected leader amongst his new friends. Tyler has a gift to inspire others and sees the good in life, but it hasn't always been that way. Being raised by a single mom and not knowing many biological family members made trusting people difficult. Soon Tyler learned that he was part of an even bigger family, the Y family.

His participation in the Renaissance Pointe Y After School, College and Career Readiness and Teen Leadership Programs has helped him find his voice, see a brighter future and positively influence his peers. As a member of the Teen Leaders Club, Tyler volunteers more than 130 hours of community service each school year, which is 30 hours more than required. He helps in

many ways at the YMCA but also donates his time to special events, community clean-ups and Special Olympics. At age 15, he also serves as the Leaders Club Chaplain.





Perhaps the most impactful experience he participated in is the YMCA's Youth and Government Program. He has been involved since his 7th grade year and is currently the Indiana Student Speaker of the House. It didn't take much time for him to become known as an outstanding delegate, a passionate debater of house bills as well as a resource for other students. His belief in his work is remarkable and he looks forward to going to Capitol Hill as part of a team of 5 students to represent the State of Indiana.

Those who know him say that Tyler has a huge heart and genuinely cares about people. He is a servant leader who believes in the Y and makes himself available at any time whether it is part of a program or volunteer work.



"Being part of the Y allowed Tyler to discover who he is and identify his passion for a career in social work. He has become a person who sees the good in people and now he shares his positive views with others," said Mario Meraz, Associate Teen Director at the Renaissance Pointe YMCA. "I am confident that he will be successful at whatever he puts his mind to. He is the good that people need to see in our world," he added.

Y youth programs focus on helping young people experience a sense of belonging, achieve new skills and develop character traits that foster positive behaviors. Through meaningful life-enhancing programs we instill character and core values that help them find a sense of purpose and reach their full potential.









BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Being part of the Y has been a blessing and given my family many different opportunities to grow a healthy mind, body and spirit. We've gained new friends and feel part of an amazing family. As a single mother, there are many obstacles, especially finances. The generosity and selflessness of the Y made it possible for us to participate in programs we have grown to love! We have enjoyed Yball, gymnastics, swimming, Kid's Club, group exercise and summer camps, but the program we've utilized the most is the Jorgensen Family YMCA Before and After school care.

I cannot imagine our life without the Y. Not only has it become **our second home**, it's an extension of our family. Without the Y, my children wouldn't have a fun and safe place after school. —HOLLY

The Y is for community. By bringing families Like Holly's together, we foster an environment that promotes relationships and a sense of belonging. Adults, children and families in our community have more opportunities to learn, grow and thrive because of connections they make at the Y.



BUILDING COMPASSION



When she didn't get the attention she needed at home, Sierra became involved with an adult who took advantage of her vulnerability.

Because of the trauma, she was referred to the YMCA Youth Service Bureau where she learned about the dangers of unhealthy relationships and human trafficking prevention. Sierra has come to be known for her intellectual and emotional intelligence.

Sierra realized that she can rely on several adults who care and believe in her. She has learned to love herself and has also been brave enough to share her story with others and help them find their own voice.



When individuals have their basic and emotional needs met, they can thrive. YMCA staff who mentor vulnerable youth, demonstrate love, care and compassion to those who need it most. Trust built in these critical relationships helps young people overcome monumental obstacles, determine their own path and help others along the way.

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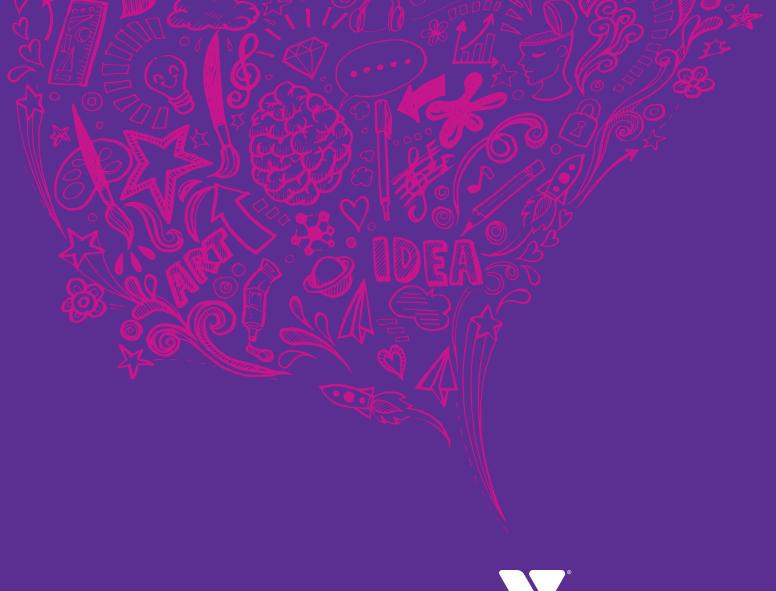
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