



**Former pastor of Anchor Community Church, Tim Hallman, joined the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne as the Christian Emphasis Director almost three years ago.** A year prior to this, NeighborLink was invited by YMCA CEO Marty Pastura to discuss their vision of an ambitious strategy to mobilize the tens of thousands of regional Y members back into the community to volunteer and serve neighbors in tangible ways. When Tim started at the Y, he had already been a long-time supporter of NeighborLink and was able to get to work on the vision of building neighbor-to-neighbor connections right away, making it a central part of his new position.

NeighborLink and the YMCA have been strengthening their relationship over the past couple of years. Tim has taken leadership and offers Y members monthly opportunities to volunteer for NeighborLink projects. The Y also has over 200 corporate partners, many who participate in the YMCA's Corporate Wellness Programming that includes volunteerism, physical and social well-being challenges. The Y has been gracious to invite NeighborLink into that program and has helped several businesses find projects meaningful to them. YMCA branch directors have even started to invite NeighborLink staff into their programming that includes active older adults and staff training on effective storytelling.

Over the past few years Marty and Tim have been working hard to remind its members that the Y is far more than just a fitness center and it's beginning to show fruit as relationships develop and the questions about service grow deeper in nature. Tim's done a great job to focus the call to volunteering and service not just on the transactional level, but as a way for members to tangibly strengthen the foundations of our community through Christian principles. The Y is also about youth development, healthy living,

and social responsibility and they see NeighborLink as a vital partner in their work to transform lives.

NeighborLink is honored to be invited to collaborate with the YMCA in this way. This is one of the most authentic and significant partnerships that NeighborLink has had in its 15 years, aligning mission and activity together towards mutual goals of loving, caring and serving; both with hearts to see relationships developed, neighbors connected, and holistic personal development

achieved in healthy, long-term ways.

The community impact from the partnership with the YMCA is just starting to take off and NeighborLink is excited to see how it grows in 2019. Thank you, Marty and Tim for your vision and leveraging NeighborLink as a tool to see thousands of YMCA members actively transforming the local community to improve the spirit, mind, body of its neighbors.



**Check out our video at:  
[vimeo.com/304179344](https://vimeo.com/304179344)**