

When you volunteer or donate to the Y, you take an active role in bringing about meaningful, enduring change right in your own neighborhood. Your tax deductible contribution will make a positive difference in many ways.

- **\$100 sends a child to youth basketball league for 8 weeks to learn new skills and experience the joy of being part of a team.**
- **\$200 allows 4 children to learn to swim, gaining confidence, safety, and rescue skills that will last a lifetime.**
- **\$500 sends a child to 6 weeks of Before and After School Care, enabling working parents to be assured that their child is safe, happy, and healthy.**
- **\$1,000 provides 2 families with a full year membership so that they can enjoy quality and affordable bonding activities together.**
- **\$2,000 sends 20 underprivileged "at risk" children to the Central City YMCA Summer Day Camp where they engage in exciting, safe, and healthy activities while making lifelong friendships.**



One look at his bright eyes, broad smile, and strong kick confirms that four-year-old Warren simply loves the water, thanks to the YMCA sponsored Project SOAR program. This charitable community outreach program provided 5-7 weeks of free swim lessons to nearly 1,400 of Joliet's underserved children last year.

Warren's single parent mother feels privileged and blessed to live in a community that makes these opportunities available to her child. "If you are never exposed to the water, how can you ever establish confidence or a comfort level?"

Studies indicate that nearly 60% of African American and Hispanic children cannot swim. This is nearly twice as many as among Caucasian kids. The American Red Cross reports the drowning rate among minority children ages 5 - 14 is over 3 times higher than for Caucasian youth. Project SOAR is helping to reverse this trend thanks to the Heroes in our local community!

"Mommy, I can swim like a fish!"



OUR MISSION:

To put Christian principles into practice by developing relationships among all persons and providing programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body.



"I'm so grateful for all the Y is doing for us. There are so many families that need help, and many of them are afraid to ask. The one thing I learned when I lost everything is that I had to rely on other people."
 - Laurie Caputo, YMCA Member & Scholarship Recipient

THE GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA
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YMCA ANNUAL HEROES CAMPAIGN

GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA
 C.W. AVERY, CENTRAL CITY, GALOWICH, MORRIS, SMITH





YOUTH DEVELOPMENT- Nurturing the potential of every child and teen.

The Y is a leading nonprofit committed to **Strengthening Our Communities** through:

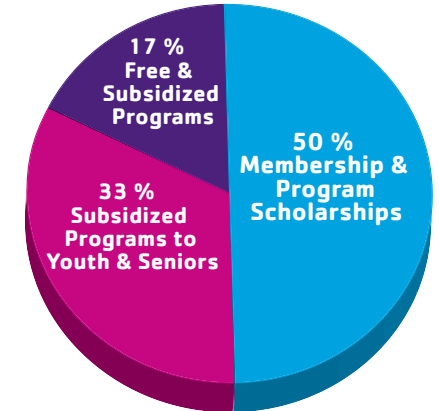
- Youth Development
- Healthy Living
- Social Responsibility

By supporting the **YMCA Annual Heroes Campaign**, children, families, and individuals in need will have the opportunity to engage in quality Y programs and activities that instill the Christian character values of **Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility**.



2010 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SUMMARY

Membership & Program Scholarships	\$479,398
Subsidized Programs to Youth & Seniors	\$310,037
Free & Subsidized Programs to underserved in Joliet	\$158,527
TOTAL:	\$947,962



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY- Giving back and providing support to our neighbors.



Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that **everyone**, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. We believe that lasting personal and social change can only come about when we all work together to invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors.



HEALTHY LIVING- Improving the nation's health and well-being.



- Total subsidies and scholarships increased by 18%
- Youth and family membership scholarships increased by 58%
- 1 out of every 5 individuals served received YMCA program or membership scholarships

Donations to the YMCA Annual Heroes Campaign supports the Y's charitable mission by insuring that no one is turned away for the inability to pay.