Impacting Summer Fun!

Summer and water activities go hand in hand. While water activities are fun, they come with risk. The Y knows the importance of water safety and works with the community to provide Safety Around Water and swimming lessons. The Y has offered group swimming lessons to the community since the early 1900s. Across the county, to ensure kids are safe, the Y has partnered with local school districts and communities to provide basics skills for water safety. These skills teach children what to look for when near water, how to call for help and the importance of safety devices such as life jackets.

During the spring and summer, our Y’s provided water safety programs to 450 children grades K-3. While water safety is important, learning to swim is paramount to keep children and adults safe during water fun. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths in children, ages 1-4. The Y works hard to ensure that children have access to swimming lessons. We offer lessons for children as young as 6 months old to adults in their senior years. We accomplish this through year round programming sessions and as a part of Summer Day Camp. Jessi, swim lesson parent, shared with our staff her gratitude for seeing the potential in her son and sharing about the swimming lessons and swim team options. She said, “if it weren’t for staff encouraging us to try it and letting him know he could earn his green swimming band, we wouldn’t have known or even tried.” She went on to say the staff also shared what a strong swimmer they saw in him. He is just one of the many children who have benefited from the Y’s swimming program – who knows this could be your child’s story as well. Although summer is winding down, the Y is still working hard to make sure all kids and adults are safe when around water.

From the Desk of Michelle Aladich

It has been an exciting year so far. Many of our YMCA members and program participants have returned and we look forward to seeing all of you this fall. Thanks to YOU we have provided financial assistance to over 5,000 people. This year, we raised over $725,000. This is both humbling and gives us hope for tomorrow. Your generosity ensures youth have a place to go afterschool, children can learn to swim, or participate in a new sport; a place for older adults to stay active and somewhere for families to play. We cannot say it enough - THANK YOU!
Gratitude

So far the YMCA has provided financial assistance to over 5,000 people to participate in programs, membership, and child care. That is over $900,000 to help others. I think the bigger story is the impact and how it helps others. Each year our staff works hard to capture the stories and photos to share. Gratitude comes in many forms whether it be the spoken thanks, the smiles and laughter of kids or the notes our staff receive. For one member it is sending our staff a hand written note each year sharing how much the Y means to her.

We could not make this possible without your generosity. I cannot think of a better way to show our appreciation than sharing one member’s gratitude.

Looking for way to make a lasting impact or leave a legacy? Join the YMCA Heritage Club
For more information contact Michelle Aladich at maladich@ymcastark.org or 330-491-9622 x223

Interested in getting this newsletter and other donor communications via email? Just drop us a line with your name and email address to donor@ymcastark.org