EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ADDRESS THE WORLD’S GREATEST CHALLENGES

With 1.2 billion youth between the ages of 15 and 24 (around 16% of the global population), today’s young people comprise the largest generation in the world’s history. Globally aware, culturally competent and socially inclusive, these changemakers have the ideas, passion and motivation to address society’s most intractable challenges and create a world we all want to live in. With YMCAs in 119 countries, the global Y Movement is uniquely positioned to leverage our collective strength to empower these young leaders. With the support of donors like you, YMCA World Service works with YMCAs worldwide to create opportunities for more young people to lead positive change in their communities.

### CHALLENGES

- **One in every 5 young people** is out of school worldwide.²
- Globally, less than 6% of elected government leaders are under 35 years old, and less than 2% are under 30 years old.⁴
- Youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults.⁵
- Climate change represents a major threat to the health and socio-economic stability for the 80% of the world’s youth who live in developing countries.⁹

### OPPORTUNITIES

- **Every $1 invested in early childhood care and education for underserved youth can generate up to $17 in future economic gains.**³
- In 90% of the world’s countries, young people are eligible to vote at age 18.⁵
- 70% of the world’s youth are online and 65% of children starting primary school today will work in technology jobs that don’t yet exist.⁸
- In 2019, an estimated 4 million young people participated in global climate strikes in over 163 countries around the world.¹⁰
- **75% of all mental illnesses emerge before age 24.**¹¹
- Every $1 invested in mental health treatment yields a return of $4 in better health and ability to work.¹²
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  Volunteer, Executive Committee, Kansas City, MO
- COLLEEN LEUNG
  Volunteer, Executive Committee, Boston, MA

## PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: INDIA YMCA

All photos are courtesy of the YMCA of the USA International Group.
YMCA World Service is the U.S. Y Movement’s annual campaign to raise awareness of and financial support for the powerful work of the global Y Movement, which spans 119 countries and reaches an estimated 58 million people with the support they need to thrive.

YMCA World Service funds work in six key areas to ensure more youth can access the support and resources to reach their full potential and create positive change in their communities. These areas include:

- Employment and Economic Empowerment
- Education
- Health Services
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Recreational, Camping and the Environment
- Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement

YMCAs worldwide are committed to helping all people – especially young people – access the opportunities they need to create a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Many of these Ys operate in extremely challenging social, economic and political environments, serving people in great need. World Service funding strengthens the leadership and long-term sustainability of YMCAs in more than 35 countries and supports innovative programs that create access to social inclusion, quality education and health services, safe spaces for personal growth, leadership development and economic empowerment.

World Service funds are administered by the YMCA of the USA International Group, in partnership with local and national U.S. YMCA staff and volunteers, who have extensive knowledge of regional history and cultural traditions, maintain trusted relationships with local community and YMCA leaders across the globe, and have a track record of partnering with Ys to develop innovative programs that transform communities.

When you support World Service, you empower youth to lead social change, creating more cohesive, economically stable, and secure communities worldwide.

For more information on YMCA World Service–funded programs, please visit www.ymca.net/world-service or call 800 872 9622.

YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES

$250
Provides a young person with entrepreneurial training in the Colombia YMCA

$500
Teaches conflict resolution and leadership skills to 15 teens at camp through the Georgia YMCA

$1,000
Provides computer literacy education to 20 youth through the Liberia YMCA

$5,000
Provides entrepreneurial skills and micro-loans to two women in the East Jerusalem YMCA so they can secure economic stability for their family.
YMCA World Service Campaign Impact and Reach

YMCA leaders around the world create and deliver innovative programs designed to respond to specific social and economic challenges to empower youth and move communities forward. In 2019, World Service partnered with Ys in more than 35 countries, impacting more than a million lives.

SOURCES OF 2019 YMCA WORLD SERVICE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS:

In 2019, World Service raised $1.5 million for international development to strengthen the impact of the following Ys:

AFRICA
Africa Alliance of YMCAs
Ethiopia YMCA
Liberia YMCA
Madagascar YMCA
Senegal YMCA
Sierra Leone YMCA
South Africa YMCA
Togo YMCA

ASIA
China YMCA
India YMCA
Japan YMCA
Mongolia YMCA
Philippines YMCA
Thailand YMCA

EUROPE
YMCA Europe
Belarus YMCA
Czech Republic YMCA
Georgia YMCA
Kosovo YMCA
Macedonia YMCA
Romania YMCA
Russia YMCA
Ukraine YMCA

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN
Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs
Bahamas YMCA
Belize YMCA
Brazil YMCA
Cayman Islands YMCA
Chile YMCA
Colombia YMCA
Haiti YMCA
Honduras YMCA
Mexico YMCA
Nicaragua YMCA
Peru YMCA
Uruguay YMCA

MIDDLE EAST
East Jerusalem YMCA
Gaza YMCA
Jerusalem International YMCA

USA
General Convention of Sioux YMCAs
Puerto Rico YMCAs
Global challenges require globally unified responses. World Service collaborates with YMCAs worldwide to support effective programs and services to address inequities for people in vulnerable communities in more than 35 countries. Whether teaching locally relevant vocational skills to help people with economic stability, providing education to break the cycle of poverty or developing civic-minded leaders, your charitable contributions are changing the world for good. Here are a few of the countless ways:

**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING**

World Service helps deliver technical expertise, Y-to-Y partnership opportunities and resources that strengthen YMCAs’ capacity to effectively serve their communities. For example, YMCA World Service partners with the Albay YMCA in the Philippines to help prepare more than 3,000 young leaders to serve their community and enhance long-term sustainability.

“In college, I was shy. I didn’t care about my community’s issues. Today, through the YMCA, I am able to help my fellow Filipino youth through peer-to-peer education. I feel empowered.”

— Joyce
Youth Staff Leader, Albay YMCA, Philippines

**EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

The Liberia YMCA helps more than 7,000 youth access job skills to escape the cycle of poverty. One participant, Yusuf, was forced to drop out of school to support his family. Through the YMCA, he learned to become a proficient tailor and opened his own tailor shop, enabling his family to move out of the slums. Yusuf is now a YMCA volunteer and role model for other young people.

“The YMCA was recruiting for their Employment Training program and I signed up. Since that day, I now have a new story to tell in my life.”

— Yusuf
Volunteer, YMCA Liberia
RECREATION, CAMPING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Russia YMCA serves more than 20,000 people in 16 cities with a focus on experiential education and youth development programs including sports and fitness, youth camps, social inclusion programs for children with special needs, arts education, environmental and drug prevention programs, life skills and leadership training programs.

“The YMCA is a really good base to develop your leadership skills and understand how the world works.”

—— Ekaterina
Camp Director, YMCA Russia

HEALTH SERVICES

YMCA provides quality health programs to help people manage stress, chronic disease and improve their quality of life in spirit, mind and body. The Uruguay YMCA serves 25,000 people with a focus on youth development for marginalized children and teens facing homelessness, addiction, unemployment, HIV and more.

“It is because of the YMCA that I quit doing everything bad for me and today I can honestly say I feel good.”

—— Cristian
Job Training and Substance Abuse Counseling Program Participant, Montevideo YMCA

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Kosovo YMCA’s Peer to Peer Leadership Program trains 400 youth ages 13-20 to become social and entrepreneurial innovators, build sustainable livelihoods and take action to improve their communities. One leader, Elda, created a YMCA at her college and has become the youngest female leader on her Y’s national board.

“Each one of us has great potential to make change and leave our footprints in the world for the better.”

—— Elda
Peer to Peer Trainer, Kosovo YMCA

EDUCATION

The Madurai, India YMCA’s school for the hearing-impaired gives young people the education and skills they need to live independently. Sugantha felt insecure and lonely, but through the YMCA he developed communications skills that helped his grades improve and his confidence soar. Sugantha graduated high school and now plans to study computer science and technology in college.

“If it was not for the YMCA, I would have been a school dropout. The YMCA transformed my life.”

—— Sugantha
Student, YMCA Madurai School, India
YMCA OF THE USA
GLOBAL LEGACY SOCIETY

We extend our deep appreciation to the members of the YMCA of the USA Global Legacy Society, whose planned gifts will carry on the international mission of the YMCA and continue to strengthen the global YMCA Movement for generations to come. Thank you!

- Clark and Carolyn Baker
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- Jim and Jeanne Van Houten
- Robert R. Wilke

EAST JERUSALEM YMCA

“YMCA World Service epitomizes the mission of the YMCA and allows me to support an organization that improves the lives of people throughout the world. I am proud to be a volunteer, a donor and a member of the Global Legacy Society.”

— Peter Post
Member, YMCA Global Legacy Society
Consider a Planned Gift
Planned giving allows you to make an enduring impact on the global mission of the YMCA. It is a simple and flexible way to combine charitable giving with sound financial planning. In fact, there are many ways for you to use planned giving opportunities to strengthen the work of the global YMCA Movement, support life-changing programs and realize significant financial and tax benefits for you and your loved ones.

Your bequest or planned gift makes you eligible for membership in the YMCA of the USA Global Legacy Society. This is YMCA of the USA’s way of formally recognizing your support of our mission through your estate planning and thanking you for your generosity.

TO MAKE A BEQUEST GIFT TO YMCA OF THE USA — INTERNATIONAL WORK, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

“To the YMCA of the USA — International Work, I give _________% or U.S. $______________ of my residuary estate.”

YMCA of the USA is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization chartered by the state of Illinois. Our tax identification number is 36-3258696.

Please contact us directly at 312 419 8371 for more information about how we can help you with your estate planning. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your goals and tell you more about the important international work of YMCA of the USA.
“I give to World Service because I am fortunate enough to be able to help where I can. We are all in this world together, intertwined in one way or another. This world is only as happy as we make it.”

— Sarah Lopez
World Service Donor
There are YMCAs in 119 countries, each helping people to reach their full potential for a better future.
Thank you for supporting YMCA World Service.
To learn more or contribute:

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