

Every Child Has a Story

Help the Tiftarea YMCA
reach the next young person



Tiftarea YMCA

Annual Campaign 2026

A story of encouragement

Let me tell you about JC.

JC was a young man who had been getting into trouble at school and became involved with the court system. He was sent to the YMCA to complete community service, but we were asked to do more than simply have him work his hours. We were asked to **work on his heart, too.**

JC cleaned windows, equipment, floors, and carpets. But we also invited him into the life of the Y. He participated in summer camp, joined us for devotions, took part in activities with younger children, attended a men's event at a local church, and had men speak encouragement and wisdom into his life.

One of those men was Tom, an 84-year-old YMCA member who spent time with JC and encouraged him to take responsibility and, especially, **take initiative.**

The next day, JC came into the Y. Before anyone asked him to do anything, he looked around, saw what needed to be done—and **did it.**

It was a small moment, but it represented something much bigger.

I spoke with his grandmother, who is raising him, and told her what had happened. She was so proud of him and so thankful that the YMCA was investing in his life.

We hope that one day JC will become a YMCA referee for soccer or football—and perhaps someday return to the Y to work (when he is old enough) and become a mentor to another young person who needs someone to believe in him.

That is what your YMCA does. It changes lives.

Reaching young people together

JC's story is one example of why this work matters. When the community comes together, one young person's next step can become a new beginning. During the past year, through programs including the following and other youth programs, we reached:

- Summer Camp
- Learn to Swim
- Sports Programs
- Afterschool Programs
- Food For Thought
- YMCA Christmas
- Y Achievers

We reached 1,024 YOUNG PEOPLE!

That means 1,024 lives impacted, 1,024 opportunities created, 1,024 young people given a chance to grow, learn, belong, and believe in themselves.

Behind every number is a child. And behind every child is a story.

Your gift can help reach another child

That is why we are asking you to consider a gift to this year's Annual Campaign. **Your gift is not simply supporting a program. It is helping us reach another child.**

It may be a child who needs a safe place after school, a child who needs to learn to swim, a child who needs a summer filled with fun and friendship, a child who needs a meal, or a young person like JC who simply needs someone to see his potential and believe in him.

Your gift can help provide:

- A safe place after school
- Learn-to-swim opportunities
- Summer camp filled with fun and friendship
- Nutritious meals through Food For Thought
- Sports and Afterschool Programs
- Encouragement and mentorship for young people like JC

Please consider making a gift to this year's Annual Campaign. Thank you for helping the Tiftarea YMCA reach another child.

How many more young lives can we impact together?

Thank you for being part of the Tiftarea YMCA family—and for helping us make sure that every child who walks through our doors has the opportunity to discover what he or she can become.

With gratitude,

Jason Bishoff

CEO