



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Today, only 27% of people say they feel closely connected to their neighbors. While people feel increasingly isolated from one another, community needs often go unmet. Togetherhood®, the Y's member-led volunteer service program, aims to reverse these trends. Y members from all backgrounds work side by side with neighbors and partners to plan and implement volunteer projects that strengthen their communities.

Together we can make a difference.

BENEFITS OF TOGETHERHOOD®

Good for individuals

Volunteering improves people's well-being, helps them forge strong relationships, and gives them an outlet to explore their passions and discover their purpose.

Good for the community

Togetherhood leverages the Y's powerful network and cause-driven mission to unlock people's potential to improve lives and contribute to a stronger and more connected society.

Good for the Y

Through Togetherhood, the Y is mobilizing a movement of highly engaged members who are using their creativity, passion and hard work to transform communities. In the process, we're demonstrating to potential donors and partners that we're more than just a gym and swim—we're a charity dedicated to strengthening community.

Pledge your Y's commitment to implement Togetherhood:
yexchange.org/SocialResponsibility

Questions? Email Togetherhood@ymca.net

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TOGETHERHOOD® SIGNATURE PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CRITICAL SOCIAL ISSUE
ADDRESSED:
Social isolation and
community
disconnectedness

GOAL:
Connect members to each
other in service to the
community.



BY THE NUMBERS

As of May 2016

- 380 participating branches
- Active in 42 states
- 15,783 volunteers activated
- 407 projects completed
- 587 partnerships cultivated

"We are finding that many of our Y members yearn to give back and sometimes just don't know how to get started. Togetherhood is that vehicle, providing members with the opportunity to lead, plan and serve."
- Staff member, Merrimack Valley YMCA (MA)

"I now see the Y as the house of the community, where people come together to make a better society."
- Member, Rye YMCA (NY)



April 2016



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EXAMPLES OF TOGETHERHOOD SERVICE PROJECTS

The Togetherhood Committee at the **Coal Creek Family Y** in the Greater Seattle area, partnered with the Salvation Army to prepare and serve a meal and provide warm company to 60 people. "This was truly a meaningful experience for our members and staff," said Associate Executive Director Sara Biancofiori. "We all had the opportunity to give back, to do something good, to be a bright spot in someone's days."

At the **YMCA of Southwest Illinois**, Togetherhood volunteers partnered with the local school district on a community garden project that provides life-skills and vocational training to students with diverse abilities. The Togetherhood team worked alongside the students all summer to tend the garden and harvest produce for a local food bank, yielding 850 pounds of produce for distribution to people in need of healthy food. "I love public service," said one volunteer. "We're doing all of these things collaboratively to take care of each other."

With the aim of meeting the needs of children in underserved communities of Madison, WI, the **YMCA of Dane County** Togetherhood team partnered with city departments to engage 40 kids in weekly opportunities to play sports, establish positive relationships with local police officers, and stay away from the dangers of the streets. "Neighbors came to the games and cheered the kids on and began seeing the police officers in a new light," said Togetherhood Committee member Jim Spahr. "This program has had such a great impact on the kids in this neighborhood."

In Doylestown, PA, a family's dream came true when they were handed the keys to their new home, thanks to the efforts of Habitat for Humanity and other volunteers, including the **Central Bucks Family YMCA** Togetherhood team. The team helped by moving preconstructed wall panels from a local Habitat for Humanity facility to the home construction site. "The Y needs to be less shy about asking people to give their time" said Jack, a Y member. "People are really ready to do so."

Togetherhood volunteers at the **Somerset Hills YMCA** (NJ) came together to visit veterans living at a local VA housing facility. The volunteers shared home-cooked meals, decorated the VA community room, provided entertainment and spent time socializing with more than 30 veterans. "It is important to identify and address needs in our society by developing community-based solutions," said Dan McCauley, Togetherhood Committee Chair. "The Togetherhood program unites members of our community to participate in positive social change and make an impact in peoples' lives"