



2024 COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I donate to the YMCA?

Your support is integral in helping the YMCA continue our commitment to providing quality programs to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We all benefit from having a strong YMCA. The YMCA makes your community a healthier and more connected place to live and work.

Why should I give when I already pay monthly membership dues?

Membership dues and program fees cover the cost of maintaining and operating YMCA facilities and programs for members. However, donations to the Annual Campaign support financial assistance for everyone in the community, particularly kids, teens, families and older adults. Contributions also provide financial assistance for individuals and families who cannot afford the full cost of membership or program fees. **Last year our association provided financial assistance to 2,298 community members.**

What impact does my gift have?

- **\$25** provides a one-month scholarship for an individual to enrich themselves at the YMCA
- **\$50** saves lives by teaching two children how to swim and be safe around water
- **\$100** offers parents peace of mind by providing two families one week of safe, nurturing after school programming
- **\$250** allows six families the opportunity to keep experiencing the Y for a month during a difficult financial time
- **\$500** gives a cancer survivor the gift of strength and community through LIVESTRONG at the YMCA
- **\$1,000** sponsors a YMCA youth sport team – fostering an active lifestyle while teaching children valuable life skills

Now is not a good time. Can I give later?

The YMCA can bill for contributions monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or the donor may wish to donate online, at their local branch, or pay in one sum. Monthly support is often a preferred and affordable way to give generously.

Is my contribution tax deductible?

Yes! The YMCA is classified by the IRS as a publicly supported 501 © (3) non-profit.

I gave last year. Why are you asking again?

Your contributions to last year's annual campaign helped the YMCA deliver vital programs for people in our community. However, these programs are not sustainable without continued support. That is why the campaign takes place annually. If you prefer, you can pledge now and pay later in the year.

Does the money raised in the annual campaign stay at our Y?

Yes! When you make a gift to the Annual Campaign at our branch, 100% of that gives support financial assistance scholarships right here in our branch. That means your generosity has impact in the same communities that you call home.

Who contributes to the YMCA?

Many of our YMCA members, community members, staff, board, businesses, foundations, and civic groups contribute funds each year to further the community impact of our YMCA.

Who decides how contributions are used?

Financial assistance scholarships are awarded on a case-by-case basis and determined by the branches Membership Director and Executive Director.

What are my payment options?

The YMCA is pleased to handle contributions in any manner the donor wishes. The donor pledge form is used to indicate the most convenient billing arrangements. The donor payment options includes – payments of contribution scheduled over the year; monthly, quarterly or semiannually. Cash, credit, and debit cards are accepted, as well as gifts of security (stock).

Can I make my donation online?

Yes, you can make your donation online by visiting our website at **www.clevelandymca.org/give**.

If a member asks you a question about Day of Giving or the Annual Campaign that you are not comfortable answering, do not be afraid to tag in your branch leadership. The Y is team effort and we appreciate the role you are playing in making the Community Campaign a success!