



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# Youth Development



All kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. We see every interaction with today's youth as an opportunity to teach, encourage and guide them to be more confident. We serve more than **11,000 youth** each year and that number continues to rise.

The Y provides a wide range of activities to foster healthy, productive children and all youth activities incorporate the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

## Child Care

We are one of the largest providers of child care in our area. We offer partial and full time **care daily to more than 350 children** ages 13 months and older. In the Y's child care, boys and girls experience early literacy and discover the world around them. Our financial assistance program can reduce the burden for families facing financial challenges.

## Y-Achievers

This is a research-based, after-school, academic achievement and teen mentoring program, designed to help 7th-12th grade youth prepare for and enact impactful, fulfilled lives in college and beyond. The program offers activities designed to expose middle and high school students to career, educational, and social opportunities.

## Leaders Club

We have one of the largest YMCA leaders programs in the Northeast that provides teens with extensive leadership training and opportunities for service to the YMCA and the community. The club develops skills and fosters a culture of community service in youth ages 12 to 18. Staff and volunteer mentors teach participants how to serve others better and live healthy and productive lives.

## Dance

Each week more than 300 youth participate in our dance programs, everything from ballet to Hip Hop. The goals are to help children learn the art of dance, improve self esteem, encourage social connections, and promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

## Swimming Lessons

The Y is committed to teach as many children as possible how to swim every year to help reduce the risk of drowning, the second leading cause of death among children. We do this by not only helping swimmers develop confidence in the water, but also how to be safe around water. Our program enables more than 1,000 children to gain self-confidence through the skills they learn in the pool and many develop a life-long love of swimming.

## Swim Team

The Y's STORM swim team competes year-round in both YMCA and USA Swimming meets. The team provides a unified team atmosphere that creates long-lasting relationships and a sense of community and belonging.

## Summer Camp

This year, thousands of children experienced the joys of summer at our Y camps. Children make new friends, learn new skills and leave with a lifetime of memories. Our unique summer camp setting offers campers the opportunity to learn about farming, archery, gardening, nature and theatre while enjoying the traditional day camp activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, and sports.