

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my donation be used?

Donations are used to provide scholarships for less fortunate people. The YMCA provides scholarships for youth, family and senior memberships, childcare, summer camping, swim lessons, youth sports, teen programs, and more. At the YMCA no one will be denied participation due to the inability to pay.

Don't the fees I pay support the YMCA?

Program fees are established to cover the direct costs, but they do not in any way provide for the entire costs of having a child involved in one of these activities. Costs not covered include those for leadership, professional staff, building expenses, insurance, secretarial and office expenses, etc. In addition, those people with demonstrated financial need benefit from a sliding fee scale based on their ability to pay. This direct support comes from donated campaign dollars.

Why should I give to the Y? I am not pleased with some of the things they do there!

I'd like to visit with you about whatever it is that you don't like. I can follow up and put a staff person in touch with you. Many times misunderstandings occur because of misinformation. I hope that one misunderstanding will not turn you against the whole organization. The YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City serves tens of thousands of people in our community, and we need your support to help us continue our work.

My kids aren't in the program any more. Why should I give?

While your children were growing up, I am sure you felt it was important to involve them in groups that kept them occupied in worthwhile activities. There are still thousands of youth in our community who need the YMCA for this very same reason. The Oklahoma City area will continue to be a desirable place to live if all of us help the YMCA continue this valuable work. That's why we continue to ask for your support.

Isn't the YMCA a United Way agency? I already give to United Way.

Yes, the Y does receive funds from United Way. However, those funds this year represent about 2% of our budget and are not enough to meet the growing needs our community has for YMCA programming. The funding is limited to certain existing programs and is not guaranteed to be renewed each year. We need your support to help us continue serving the community not only through existing programs but with new and expanded offerings as well.

I've already supported a capital project at the Y. How is this different?

Capital project funds will pay for "bricks and mortar," new or renovated buildings or parts of buildings, or special equipment purchases. The annual Strong Kids Campaign provides funding for the YMCA operating budget: maintaining and expanding mission-based programs that require subsidy and providing financial assistance to those who need it.