



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHANGING LIVES AROUND THE WORLD

World Service Campaign

Each year World Service helps bring transformational YMCA programs and services to more than one million people in vulnerable communities. Whether providing young adults with job skills to help their families become financially stable, educating marginalized children or lifting a community out of a crisis, the global Y Movement changes lives because of your charitable contributions. Here are a few examples of the impact of your World Service support:

MAKING AN IMPACT

Using recreation, camping and the arts to help vulnerable youth develop the talents, social skills and confidence they need to reach their full potential.

The **Panama YMCA** helps underserved youth in low-income neighborhoods of Panama City to escape the dangers of the streets when school is out and discover and nurture new skills and talents. During the school year, the Y runs a Saturday program called La Casita de Colores, which provides a safe environment with caring Y staff for young people to express their creativity and develop positive values through a diverse array of class offerings, including English, art, recycling, breakdancing and knitting. During the summer, when school is out, the YMCA offers a free camp called Verano Feliz (Happy Summer), which provides youth with constructive physical, educational and recreational activities in a safe, secure environment.

In western Panama, the YMCA runs a private English school, which is accessible and affordable to low-income and working-class families who seek a quality education for their children. The school environment embodies the international YMCA philosophy of developing and strengthening students in spirit, mind and body. Today, 250 students from kindergarten through grade 12 are enrolled in the school, where the curriculum emphasizes YMCA values, sustainability, information technology and bilingual language learning in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. The results have been astounding: of the three classes to graduate from the school so far, every student has gone on to attend college.



"I started coming [to Verano Feliz] two years ago and I come because I like to do everything at the YMCA. It has completely changed me. Before, I didn't want to do anything...I spent my days on the street. But now I come to the Y. Here, I feel better than I did when I was on the street."

— Leonel, age 14

Developing the next generation of leaders committed to creating positive social change in their home communities, in their countries and across borders.

The **Malaysia YMCA** places youth development as a top priority. Through retreats, workshops and training programs, the Y helps young leaders discover their leadership potential. For example, one training program prepared 37 young people for future leadership opportunities in the YMCA. Under the guidance of experienced YMCA leaders from countries across the Asia and Pacific region, learning experiences like this prepare emerging Malaysian leaders to thrive in their multi-cultural nation and become agents of change in their families, communities and society.

"I have come to realize the great importance of community building and the impact the YMCA has beyond Malaysia. I hope YMCA Malaysia will increase its impact and realize its full potential. I will incorporate my learnings into upcoming programs, trainings and activities at my YMCA. I will be more sensitive and look at problems in multiple perspectives."

— **Youth Leadership Program Participant,**
Malaysia YMCA



MALAYSIA YMCA

Providing youth and adults with marketable job skills and career counseling to help promote financial stability for a more secure future.

Many Palestinians in the West Bank suffer from chronic unemployment and underemployment. Seventy-eight percent of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem live below the poverty line. To help reverse these trends, the **East Jerusalem YMCA** provides career counseling, new job skills training, business management instruction and job placement services reaching more than 1,000 young men and women every year. Recognized as a leading youth organization in the West Bank and Gaza, the Y also provides enriching youth programs, including leadership development, sports, art and culture, as well as psycho-social counseling that improves the confidence and well-being of thousands of vulnerable and underserved youth each year.

"I will soon graduate in Graphic Design from the YMCA Jericho Vocational Training Center. I already have a job lined up at the nearby Oasis Hotel and I feel hopeful."

— **Ranim, Vocational Training Student,**
East Jerusalem YMCA



EAST JERUSALEM YMCA

Building bridges of empathy and understanding to create more peaceful and nurturing communities in which children and youth can learn, grow and thrive.

In Togo, where the average annual income is \$1,051 (World Bank, 2013), there are few safeguards in place to help vulnerable youth and protect young offenders from incarceration. Once inside the criminal justice system, young people are in danger of further violence, abuse and mistreatment. Through outreach programs, the **Togo YMCA** works with judges, lawyers, police and prison authorities to respond to the needs of young offenders, for example, advocating for judges to issue non-adult sentences and for jails to separate young offenders from the adults. The Togo YMCA also works with youth to prevent them from getting into conflict with the law, offering programs aimed at teaching young people important life and communication skills, including conflict resolution, peace building, agricultural training and health.



TOGO YMCA

"Before I joined the YMCA, I had many challenges to overcome and I did not know how to deal with them. I had no idea about civic action, youth participation or civic engagement. The YMCA gave me many opportunities for leadership roles, responsibility for organizing activities and events, and training to build my competencies. Now I am giving my time to help empower young people and help them become change agents in their communities."

— **Mawuli Akpolo, Volunteer,**
Togo YMCA

The **Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY)** is committed to peace building and coexistence, helping develop the next generation of leaders to create positive social change. JIY's Peace Preschool program integrates Muslim, Christian and Jewish children, from 2 to 4 years of age, in the same classroom where they are free to play, learn and grow in a safe, welcoming environment. The classes embrace children of each faith, incorporating teachings on all three religions, cultures and traditions to promote cross-cultural understanding, build friendships and celebrate differences. One Jewish and one Arab teacher colead each class, and teachers and children speak in both Arabic and Hebrew. The school involves the children's families and extended communities in its activities, emphasizing education, arts, culture and peaceful coexistence. In addition, they foster peace and cross-cultural understanding through their talented multi-faith youth chorus and teen programs.



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA

"The JIY stands as a sanctuary for people of all ages who use our services and enjoy our facilities. From the infants at our Peace Preschool, through our youth programs serving kids from both East and West Jerusalem, to our family events and workshops, we are ensuring that everyone can find something to do here – together."

— **Amos Gil, CEO,**
Jerusalem International YMCA

Extending a welcoming hand to refugees and internally displaced people and offering holistic services and support to help them reclaim their health, economic livelihood and sense of belonging.

One of the greatest characteristics of YMCAs worldwide is their ability to respond to new social issues facing their communities. The **Ukraine YMCA** demonstrated this when escalating military conflict in east Ukraine forced over one million people—many of them children—to leave their homes and seek refuge in a different part of the country. The physical and emotional challenges for these internally displaced children and families are enormous, but the Y stepped in to help. By providing free participation in YMCA programs and camps, school supplies and warm clothes for the winter, and other youth development programs, the Ukraine YMCA is doing everything possible to make sure children feel safe and cared for in a critical time of their lives. The Ukraine YMCA mobilizes cause-driven volunteers to carry out its work, providing life-changing opportunities for more than 45,000 children, teens and adults throughout the country each year.



UKRAINE YMCA

“You just see kids being transformed by the Y. It’s as simple as treating them with respect and giving them love, that’s it. They don’t need much. They just need a safe place to be and someone who cares, and I really feel like the Y is the place for them. Just seeing this transformation happening is very special to me.”

— **Marta Guretska, Volunteer,**
Ukraine YMCA

SUPPORTING THE YMCA’S WORLD SERVICE CAMPAIGN IS EASY.

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An estimated 11 million Syrians have fled their homes since the outbreak of civil war in 2011—many taking refuge in other countries. As the number of people forced to leave their homes due to conflict continues to rise in this region, several YMCAs have redirected their efforts and resources to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

Lebanon, Syria’s neighbor, has welcomed more than 1.4 million Syrian refugees, who currently constitute 20 percent of Lebanon’s population. When the Lebanese government was unable to keep pace with the refugees’ critical needs, the **Lebanon YMCA** stepped in to become a key partner in the country’s efforts to welcome and support them. The Y’s primary focus has been to provide refugees and other underserved communities with essential medical supplies and services through a network of 450 healthcare centers across Lebanon. These critical interventions help improve lives and prevent the spread of disease.

The **Armenia YMCA** provides safe spaces for Syrian refugee children to overcome the emotional trauma caused by the war, as well as the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence to successfully integrate into a new society. Based on the initial success of the program and increased demand for refugee support services, the Armenia YMCA started a new local Y led by 24 young Syrian-Armenian volunteer leaders who understand the refugees’ situation and are committed to continue this important work.



LEBANON YMCA



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