

The **Y** Makes a Difference



YMCA of Greater Vancouver

100 Summers
AT CAMP



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

YMCA



“I like the fact that at the Y, the kids are from a diverse range of backgrounds. They are taught to respect differences, something I think is important to learn at a young age.”

Parent of a YMCA Child Care participant

DIVERSITY

Diversity is what the YMCA's all about, whether it's our wide variety of programs or the many people who make us part of their lives. An appreciation of diversity is central to the spirit of the YMCA, and is reflected in our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility – values we cultivate and encourage in ourselves and our participants.

Diverse Programs. The key to the YMCA's far-reaching impact is our diverse range of programs and services, developed to meet the unique needs of the communities we serve. We counter societal issues with positive initiatives that foster employment skills, access to quality child care, health improvement, child and youth development, literacy, and community involvement. Through this multi-faceted approach, we're uniquely positioned to engage individuals and families in a variety of ways, and to support them in their quest for better health and a brighter future.

Diverse People. People of all ages come to the YMCA, from different faith traditions, cultural backgrounds, and economic circumstances, and with various levels of abilities. Here they find opportunities for lifelong involvement, with programs that meet their changing needs – from infancy through to their retirement years.

Open To All. We work hard to ensure that everyone can take part in the Y. Through our Partners With Youth annual support campaign and the YMCA Endowment Fund, people can access financial support that allows them to participate. We also provide programs for at-risk youth and for children with mental or physical challenges, so they can benefit from positive experiences that boost confidence and self-esteem.

When it comes to diversity, the **Y makes a difference.**

In 2006: The YMCA offered hundreds of programs at **136** locations throughout the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley • **63,756** people found opportunities for positive growth at the YMCA: 49% were under the age of 18, while 10% were 55 or older • **2,547** individuals received YMCA financial support that allowed them to benefit from a child care, camp, or membership experience • Through KidSafe, **245** inner-city, at-risk children had a safe place to go during school break

OPPORTUNITY

At the YMCA, every day brings opportunities for people to challenge themselves, learn something new, connect with others, and get involved. We're there each step of the way, helping them develop their potential and reach their goals.

Healthy Kids. Using an asset development approach, we provide children and youth with positive experiences, support and opportunities they need to thrive and grow into strong, caring and contributing community members. This framework for healthy development is an integral part of our programs for young people, which include camping, outdoor education, early childhood learning and care, leadership development and community recreation.

Family Support. To reach their full potential, children need a healthy, supportive home environment. We're there to assist parents and caregivers in this most vital role, helping them access quality child care, improve parenting skills, find employment and spend time together as a family.

New Beginnings. We ease the transition when people are making a fresh start, linking new immigrants with local volunteer hosts who help them adjust, supporting young people in their first work experience and helping new entrepreneurs launch their own businesses.

Positive Change. People of all ages engage in healthy activities and learning opportunities at our membership centres and community locations. From preschool gym time, art classes, teen nights, swimming lessons, computer courses and fitness classes to programs that help seniors manage chronic health conditions like heart disease and rheumatoid arthritis, our focus is on the holistic, positive development of people.

When it comes to opportunity, the **Y makes a difference.**

In 2006: **8,870** children and youth learned more about themselves through a YMCA camp experience • Our child care centres supported the healthy development of **2,538** children • **187** young people gained valuable work experience through the Youth Internship Program and STEP to Work • **199** new businesses were started with the help of our self-employment programs • **85** new immigrants received friendship and support from **84** local volunteer hosts • **390** older adults learned how to manage their heart conditions through a healthy lifestyle • **31,214** children, youth, adults and seniors found better health as members at our **4** YMCA centres

“My daughter calls it the best two weeks of her life. The joy of her letters, her photos and the endless tales of last year’s camp . . . everyone contributed to her level of maturity and her enthusiasm for life. I’m grateful.”

Parent of YMCA Elphinstone Campership recipient



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“This experience really brought home the importance of families helping families and communities helping communities. If we do it together, we can change ourselves and change the world.”

**Tong Louie Family YMCA volunteer,
Roof for Ecuador project**

COMMUNITY

Throughout the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, the YMCA responds to the needs of diverse communities, strengthening social networks and supporting people of all ages. At the Y, everyone can play a part in making our communities stronger – around the corner and around the world.

Around the Corner. In all our programs, people with common interests and needs come together as a community. They're places where neighbours meet and lifelong friendships are formed. They provide a network of support that fosters a sense of belonging and caring. They're also places where people can get involved and give back to the community as a volunteer or donor, making a significant difference in the lives of others.

These opportunities for meaningful connection and positive contribution collectively create a stronger community, one that supports and cares for all its members.

Around the World. We are all part of the world community, and we can all help to make it a better place. Locally, the YMCA fosters awareness of cultural diversity through youth exchanges, global education and YMCA Peace Week, while our Power of Peace Awards honour those in our community who are working towards a more peaceful world.

Our impact extends globally with the YMCA Youth Peace Network, which helps YMCA youth leaders from around the world develop the capacity to create change in their home communities. Through our partnerships with YMCAs in Ecuador, Ethiopia and Brazil, we share expertise and resources, and cooperatively work on social projects that contribute to improved quality of life.

When it comes to community, the Y makes a difference.

In 2006: 591 young people experienced life in a different part of our country through YMCA Youth Exchanges • 13 Youth Peace Network participants, from countries ranging from Argentina to Sierra Leone, developed their leadership skills and shared knowledge about peace, conflict resolution and social justice • 21 YMCA volunteers and 1 staff member helped build 3 preschool learning centres in an impoverished area of Ecuador

YOU

However you choose to participate, your involvement in the YMCA is essential to our success as we work together to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. You're our 'Reason Y', and we thank you for making a difference.

Our Volunteers. We rely on the dedication and time given by our volunteers, who help bring better health and brighter futures to so many, whether they're leading seniors in an exercise class, welcoming new immigrants, teaching children to swim or mentoring young people.

Our Employees. Our staff members share our commitment to the development of people in spirit, mind and body. They each play an important role in the community and make a positive difference in people's lives.

Our Community Partners. Our partners provide a wide range of support that helps us develop new facilities and deliver vital community services, such as positive activities for urban teens and programs to help seniors manage chronic health conditions.

Our Donors. More people can benefit from a YMCA experience, now and in the future, thanks to our donors' generous support of our fundraising efforts: Partners With Youth, which provides financial support to those in need, and the YMCA Endowment Fund, which ensures a lasting legacy for generations to come. The YMCA Strong Foundations Strong Communities capital campaign will allow us to meet growing community needs through the expansion of the Tong Louie Family YMCA, the replacement of the Downtown YMCA and Nanook Child Care Centre, the redevelopment of Camp Elphinstone and the establishment of a new Children and Youth Endowment Fund.

When it comes to the **Y, you make a difference.**

In 2006: 1,793 YMCA volunteers shared their time and talents to help build a stronger community • **812** YMCA employees helped bring about positive change in people's lives • Over **100** community partners helped further the YMCA's mission • Over **1,000** Partners With Youth donors pledged **\$671,212** to help people in need • Our Strong Foundations Strong Communities capital campaign reached a year-end total of **\$7,665,830** through the support of more than **160** donors

“Philanthropy and volunteering our time to help others is core to what we do . . . At the Y, it’s all about the people.”

YMCA of Greater Vancouver staff member



YMCA



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 Vancouver, BC V6E 3Z3
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 Fax: 604-688-0220

YMCA Camps

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 Tel: 604-939-9622
 Fax: 604-939-9621

YMCA Child Care

200 – 1166 Alberni Street
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 Tel: 604-294-9622
 Fax: 604-294-9414

Chilliwack Family YMCA

45844 Hocking Avenue
 Chilliwack, BC V2P 1B4
 Tel: 604-792-3371
 Fax: 604-792-7298

Downtown YMCA

Re-opening 2009

YMCA Community Services & International Development

201 – 1166 Alberni Street
 Vancouver, BC V6E 3Z3
 Tel: 604-685-8066
 Fax: 604-684-3255

YMCA Healthy Heart

208 – 245 East Columbia Street
 New Westminister, BC V3L 3W4
 Tel: 604-521-5801
 Fax: 604-521-3242

South Slope Family YMCA

282 West 49th Avenue
 Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z5
 Tel: 604-324-9622
 Fax: 604-324-6152

Tong Louie Family YMCA

14988 57 Avenue
 Surrey, BC V3S 7S6
 Tel: 604-575-9622
 Fax: 604-575-3132

www.vanymca.org



Our Mission

The YMCA is a charitable association dedicated to the development of people in spirit, mind and body as well as the improvement of local, national and international communities.

Our Core Values

Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility



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strong families, strong communities.

YENDOWMENT™

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