



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2022

# YMCA of Greater New Orleans COMMUNITY IMPACT



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



## OUR MISSION

The YMCA is dedicated to putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

## WHO WE ARE

The YMCA of Greater New Orleans is a non-profit community committed to serving our neighbors, supporting them in reaching their wellness goals, and connecting them to the resources needed to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

## CONNECT WITH US!



[www.ymcaneworleans.org](http://www.ymcaneworleans.org)

## OUR SERVICE CENTERS

**BELLE CHASSE YMCA**  
8101 Highway 23  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
(504) 392-9622

**EAST JEFFERSON YMCA**  
6691 Riverside Drive  
Metairie, LA 70003  
(504) 888-9622

**WEST ST. TAMMANY YMCA**  
71256 Francis Road  
Covington, LA 70433  
(985) 893-9622

**PORT SULPHUR YMCA**  
278 Civic Drive  
Port Sulphur, LA 70083  
(504) 934-3690

**BURAS YMCA**  
36342 Highway 11  
Buras, LA 70041  
(504) 934-3775

**ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM**  
The New Orleans Public Library  
219 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 596-3842

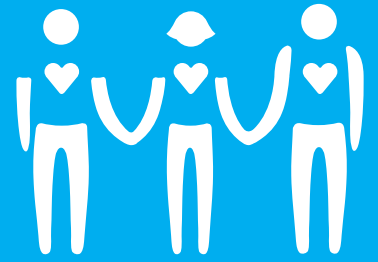
TRUSTED IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1852



Driven by our founding mission, the YMCA of Greater New Orleans has served as a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening our community for 170 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships, and opportunities for all people. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y's goal is to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment, and demonstrate the importance of connections in the community.

Today, our Y reaches tens of thousands of lives each year in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, and Plaquemines Parishes. **We live our not-for-profit charitable mission daily by providing life-changing programs and services that enrich people from all walks of life in the areas of Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.** At the Y, we know that positive change only comes about when we invest in our kids, our families, our health, and our neighbors.

FOR A  
BETTER  
US



## BLACK ACHIEVERS PROGRAM



The YMCA of Greater New Orleans in partnership with Ubuntu Village and Broadmoor Community Church recruited 20 young Black men from Sarah Reed High School and Carver High School, to participate in our Inaugural Black Achievers program. The program curriculum was designed to introduce these young men to the opportunities available to them after graduation. Listening and learning sessions focused on valuable life skills like celebrating a strong work ethic, maintaining personal health, and building positive relationships with others. Participants enjoyed a series of events, outings, and motivational talks and concluded with a parent/child trip to the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

"The young men that are participating in this program have incredible potential. They are working and studying hard to achieve their dreams. Giving them the tools to realize that potential and achieve those dreams, as well as reinforcing the important role of our schools and families, is what the Black Achievers program is all about," said Rev. Gregory Manning, Pastor of Broadmoor. Today's news often focuses on the negative behaviors of our city's young people -- the Black

Achievers Program seeks to affirm the gifts, talents and hopes of our youth. At the conclusion of our trip to the National Civil Rights Museum, parents and children enjoyed dinner together and participated in a heartfelt conversation about what they had experienced. When asked to describe the emotions they felt after visiting the museum, the most common responses were **"proud, grateful, enlightened, amazed and inspired."**





# FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Y provides youth with a safe place to learn, grow, play and be healthy.

## YOUTH SPORTS

YMCA Youth Sports programs help kids build healthy, lifelong skills such as discipline, teamwork, friendly competition, and the value of participation over winning.



## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

We hire teens and young adults at our branch locations for a variety of positions such as lifeguards, swim instructors, summer camp counselors, and child watch staff.

"As a new summer camp counselor, I was welcomed by my co-workers and everybody was friendly. I learned from being a counselor that one of my strengths is talking to people, which I never knew, and that I'm great with kids."

-Ali Hachem, East Jefferson YMCA first time camp counselor and Kenner Discovery junior

## AQUATICS

YMCA swim lessons emphasize water safety and skill development in a safe environment! Lessons are available for all ages and abilities.



## SUMMER CAMP



The YMCA is committed to making sure that every child has the opportunity to have a summer full of adventure with learning opportunities, fun activities, and great friends! Our purpose is to offer an atmosphere that focuses on creating memories for our campers based on our four core values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

## HOLIDAY CAMP & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The Y serves kindergartners through middle schoolers with a variety of programmatic and activity options to explore and develop their interests and talents. The program includes homework assistance, snacks, organized games, free fun time, arts and crafts, and outdoor recreation.





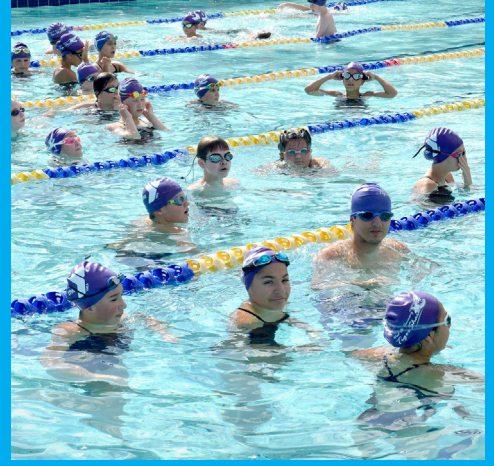
# FOR HEALTHY LIVING

The Y is committed to improving individual and community well-being.

# AQUATICS

The Y is America's swim instructor. The YMCA provides private and group swimming lessons to children and adults, water aerobics classes and a competitive swimming program.

Swimming not only helps build endurance but also improves strength, flexibility, balance and posture. The water provides a full-body workout that helps you burn fat, tone muscles and increase your overall strength!



## ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS Over 6,500

The Y offers group exercise classes and activities for seniors such as Zumba, water aerobics, pickle ball and more. Our programs are free to seniors enrolled in partner Medicare Advantage plans.



"The Y is my second home. It's where I go to see familiar, friendly faces."  
-Sal, Y Member



## GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES & FITNESS CHALLENGES

The Y offers our members a safe, supportive space to reach their fitness goals. A wide of group exercise classes, state-of-the art equipment, and personal trainers are available. Child watch is also available to parents while they work out.



"When I first joined the Y, I was welcomed with open arms. The trainers and Y members motivated me to work hard and believe in myself. Now, I think of all the things I have gained: new friends, a new home away from home, a new found pride in my appearance, and a new commitment to healthy living."

-Carmen, Y Member



# FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Y supports and inspires action  
in our communities.



## CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM

**200 FREE CAR SAFETY SEATS DISTRIBUTED**

Our public safety initiative educates our immigrant communities about occupant protection measures that reduce vehicular injuries and deaths.

"I love helping people. My favorite part is that I have the opportunity to provide important information about car seat safety and seatbelt use that can save the life of a child and an adult."

-Collying Salinas, Director, YMCA Car Seat Safety Program



## NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

**33,260 FREE MEALS & SNACKS SERVED**

The YMCA provides year round nutritional support to children enrolled in our programs. Children receive free meals and snacks during summer camp, holiday camp, and after school programs.

## AQUATICS



The YMCAs free adaptive swimming program teaches children with diverse abilities how to be safe and independent swimmers. Y aquatics team members earn specialized "Swim Angelfish" training and certification to successfully teach lessons tailored to these children.

**1,500 LIFE-SAVING LESSONS GIVEN**



## SENIOR PROGRAMMING

The YMCA offers programming to senior citizens such as group exercise classes, wellness screenings, and socialization activities to help them remain healthy, happy, and independent.



## ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

**325 STUDENTS SERVED**

The YMCA's free Adult Literacy Program works with students to reach their learning goals. Our certified instructors help students to develop reading, writing, math, digital literacy, and workforce skills. We also offer guided study programs for successful completion of the High School Equivalency Test.

# DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

**YMCA LEADERS CLUB** is a year-long leadership development program open to middle and high school teens (12 to 18 years). Participants learn leadership skills, community service through volunteering, and how to build a healthy lifestyle for themselves. Fun and engaging activities led by Y Staff are focused on imparting the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



## BLUE RIDGE LEADERS SCHOOL

This summer, 12 Leaders Club teens from East Jefferson, Belle Chasse, Buras, Port Sulphur, and West St. Tammany YMCAs along with Y staff traveled to the mountains of North Carolina to attend the Blue Ridge Leaders School. Founded in 1922 the school provides a safe environment where teens, ages 12-18, learn leadership skills through physical education with a focus on behavior, physical participation, and individual performance. The curriculum included classes in basic leadership, character development, aquatics, and the science of fitness. Evenings brought fun and challenging activities such as hiking, zip-lining, team sports, swimming, and mindfulness, to round out the experience.



## The Y empowers young people to meet their potential.

“When I walked in the class and realized how accepting people were and all the different types of people, I was immediately boosted with confidence and acceptance. Everyone was so welcoming, and that made my experience so much more enjoyable, seeing people’s perspectives that we don’t often see. I learned I am someone that other people can look up to in life and what it means to be a leader.”

-Marguerite Hopkins, Belle Chasse YMCA Leaders Club member and Mount Carmel sophomore

## MEET THE YMCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Executive Offices

Gordon Wadge, President & CEO

Louis Ogle, Chief Operating Officer

Shen Zhou, Director of Finance

Laura Jacobs, Marketing Director

Julie Belou, Accounts Payable

Sophie Liberto, Development Coordinator

Taylor Oelking, Executive Director, YMCA Aquatics

Collying Salinas, Director, Car Seat Safety Program

Amy Leggette, Executive Director, YMCA Educational Services

### Belle Chasse YMCA

Jodi Nohra, Executive Director

Vanessa Paige, Associate Executive Director

Jena Lafrance, Membership and Marketing Director

Anna Thomas, Sports and Wellness Director

Johnie Bridges, Community Aquatics Director

### East Jefferson YMCA

Kerri Diaz, Executive Director

Bailey Gstohl, Membership and Marketing Director

Dene’ Ladner, Youth and Family Programs Director

Netty Orellano, Wellness and Youth Sports Director

Teri Begin, Community Aquatics Director

### Plaquemines Partnership YMCAs

Jennifer Sanger, Partnership Director

Ashley Lincoln, Facility Director, Buras

Sarah Spinney, Program Director, Port Sulphur

### West St. Tammany YMCA

Joseph Roberts, Executive Director

Donna Laiche, Associate Executive Director

Krissy Cook, Youth and Family Programs Director

Patrick Heisser, Wellness and Youth Sports Director

Lauren Heisser, Community Aquatics Director

# YMCA of Greater New Orleans Annual Award Recipients



## Pool Corporation

### C. Allen Favrot Humanitarian of the Year Award



The C. Allen Favrot Humanitarian of the Year award is named for legendary New Orleanian, C. Allen Favrot, who was a dedicated longtime YMCA Board member, community activist, and philanthropist. The award honors those who give and serve above and beyond ordinary volunteer service and stewardship. This year's recipient is Pool Corporation, the largest wholesale distributor of swimming pool supplies, equipment, and related outdoor leisure products with headquarters in Covington, Louisiana. In the 40 year history of the award, it has only once before been awarded to a corporation. Pool Corporation embodies the characteristics and corporate culture of an organization deserving of this award. As an exceptional community partner and advocate for safety around water, Pool Corporation granted the YMCA of Greater New Orleans funding in 2021 and 2022 to train and certify 200 lifeguards and provide

2,500 children in our metro area with best practice Safety Around Water (SAW) classes.

In coordination with the YMCA of Greater New Orleans, since 2021 Pool Corporation has awarded more than \$2.1 million to support SAW programs and provide lifeguard trainings at 16 YMCAs across the country.



## Dominique "Dom" Thomas

### Mildred Wild Volunteer of the Year Award



The Mildred Wild Volunteer of the Year award is in remembrance and gratitude for the late Mildred Rita Wild who was devoted to the eternal values that made the United States of America a strong country -hard work, integrity, self-reliance, thrift, belief in God, and dedication to family. This year the award will honor Dominique "Dom" Thomas. Dom and his wife, Anna, moved to Belle Chasse in 2019 when Dom was stationed in New Orleans. Dom is a ME3 Petty Officer with the United States Coast Guard. Dom has an extensive background in sports and wellness. He played soccer for Huntingdon College in Montgomery Alabama where he also graduated with a degree in Athletic Training. Dom has a passion for coaching

youth and providing each and every child with the opportunity to learn and succeed in every sport. In 2020, Dom applied for a volunteer coach position for soccer at the YMCA. He quickly became one of the favorite coaches and helped in refereeing soccer games. He also volunteers with the Belle Chasse YMCA annual fundraising events including the Bowling Tournament and Golf Tournament. Dom has a passion for serving his country and his community. Along with his volunteering, Dom has brought many other military members along to help volunteer and give back to our community.

# YMCA OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS 2022/23 LEADERSHIP



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[www.ymcaneorleans.org](http://www.ymcaneorleans.org)



CONNECT WITH US

