

Miami County YMCA

Miami County YMCA has 3,000+ members, but they affect nearly 10,000 to 15,000 people per year. The motto of the YMCA is simple; "for youth development, for health living, for social responsibility."

This year is the organization's 111th year of dedicated work to helping the community. The YMCA's mission is "to put Christian Principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all." Their efforts go to supporting educational programs, health programs, senior support, and youth support.

"It's interesting to see how the YMCA got started and the fingers it has touched in Miami County," said Kathy Brehmer, Associate Executive Director of the Miami County YMCA.

When the YMCA board discusses the programs and changes that need to be considered throughout the community, they think about the mission first. An example of this is the Transit Program that the YMCA has. Ten years ago, the Indiana Department of Transit asked Miami County YMCA to take control of the rural transit program for the community, due to the fact it was the most logical branch to have the program. Through the Transit Program, the YMCA provides a taxi service to Medicaid, seniors, foster youth, parenting classes and more. The YMCA has been doing the senior transit for around 35 years and has been adding on to the program ever since. The program has grown to include eight vehicles with many staff members, with two more vehicles will be added soon.

Currently at the YMCA, they are expanding their preschool education program, which will help close the reading gap and other school readiness challenges. The YMCA is also increasing the number of wellness coaches and improving the health and wellness offerings in Miami County. The most exciting project, however, is the progress being made toward a new building for the organization. Mark Demchak, CEO of Miami County YMCA, said that while working at the YMCA he has found that "patience is important—sometimes the pace of change we would like isn't realistic within the limits of personnel and financial resources."

"It is important to be involved with other agencies and groups outside of the Y in the community," Mark said. "The challenges we face at the Y are common to everyone, and are better overcome with partnership and collaboration."





Our Donor's Stories

The Miami County Community Foundation is one agency that has collaborated with the YMCA. The Community Foundation has provided the YMCA with the management of several funds that benefit the YMCA and its mission.

"I applaud the foundation for its willingness to lead on the issue of school readiness." Mark said, regarding the new Preschool Project. "The mission to provide access to at least 1 year of quality preschool education lines up well with our work in youth development."

For more information about the Miami County's YMCA Fund, the NICF, estate planning, or other charitable wishes, call Connie Culter at 765-475-2859 or visit nicf.org.