



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

# AJA'S STORY

## Downtown Seattle Y Partners With Youth Impact

### Toward a Brighter Future

Have you ever thought about how hard it is to find a place where you can send that precious little person to grow and be happy? At the YMCA's Thurgood Marshall school, I found that place, and the community has become family to my sons Marlon and Uriah, and to me. At the Y you can walk in can feel the love and respect that the children and the staff have.

But it doesn't stop there. As the years passed I've come to form friendships with staff, children and parents alike. I volunteer my free time at the Y because it's the minimum I can do in return for the memories my sons will carry with them. After a long day at work I love hearing about their adventures that day—picking blueberries, visiting old people, or how they went swimming. Seeing the young faces that smile when you take time to sit and talk to them is always a heartwarming feeling. Or when you hear the kids recite the Y values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Without the programs my sons have attended through the Y I don't know where I would be or if they would even be the boys they are now. I have had to trust and place the two most important people in my life in the hands of others. I know when my boys come away from the Y they will have those Y values instilled in them.

**"AT THE Y YOU CAN FEEL THE LOVE AND  
RESPECT THE CHILDREN HAVE."**

-AJA

### PARTNERS WITH YOUTH

The YMCA Partners With Youth Campaign provides funding to ensure everyone in our community can dream of a brighter future. The Y's child care programs are part of an array of life-changing programs supported by Partners With Youth funds. 97 cents of every dollar goes directly to programming, so your gift stretches further to help people like Aja, Marlon and Uriah develop to their fullest potential. Join us today!



### DOWNTOWN SEATTLE YMCA

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P 206 382 5010 F 206 382 7283 [seattleyymca.org/donate](http://seattleyymca.org/donate)

**Everyone is welcome. Financial assistance is available.** The **YMCA of Greater Seattle** strengthens communities in King and south Snohomish counties through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.