



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

TURN YOUR GIFT INTO...

We're only kids once. My son loves to hang out, relax and have fun with other teens at the YMCA. The counselors help the youth **grow**, have higher self esteem and give them the **confidence** to try. I feel the University Family YMCA Quest program allows my son to be himself. The teen years are a difficult time of life and this stage can be a turning point for many. The Y helps my son's future by showing him that you can be a fun, cool and responsible adult. I can't help but be incredibly grateful for the fact that my son is there. Without financial assistance, my son would be home alone playing video games or watching TV. He is an only child and with working parents. In many neighborhoods, kids aren't playing with other kids. This sort of boredom causes depression and can lead to kids to make wrong decisions. The YMCA helps my son blossom.

-Quest Teen Summer Camp Parent

We very much miss you all! We came to the United States and only planned on attending camp for two weeks. Then, we had so much **good times** that we told our dad that we wanted to stay for all six weeks that we were there. The trip to Chelan was our favorite and we met many great friends there who we talk with on Facebook. We will return next summer and want to have more **fun**. We told our friends here (Saudi Arabia) to come with us. See you next year.

-Abdullah and Mohammed, Quest Teen Summer Camp Participants

My daughter attended the after school program when we first moved here and I was not only impressed at their class offerings but also by the caring staff. As a single mom they gave me the one thing I really needed in a program that offers after school care: **trust**. I felt comfortable with the staff and the fact that my daughter was not only having fun but was being taught wonderful life skills.

-Deanna, Kids University Parent

As a single mom, I have relied on the Y for almost 5 years now. My son started attending Kids U a couple days a week as a shy and tentative kindergartener, and has become a confident young man who is more **comfortable** with new situations and new people than I ever thought he would be at the ripe old age of eight-and-a-half.

-Julie, Kids University Parent

UNIVERSITY FAMILY YMCA

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TURN YOUR GIFT INTO...

The YMCA drop-in is a space that is open to everyone and allows us to feel **secure** and comfortable around our peers. Most other agencies in the U-District close during the weekend, so we are often outdoors dealing with the elements for most of the day. It is so important for our mental, physical and emotional **health** to have a safe warm place to go, even if just for a few hours. It gives me a space to clear my head and detach myself from what's going on out on the streets. Anyone could become homeless...and most people don't think about that. I believe that if you help someone when they are in need, someday someone will be there to help you.

-Homeless Youth Drop In Participant

The YMCA has been such a fun, amazing and enriching place for my family. My husband and I are able to come in and get healthy and distress while the kids enjoy play time with fantastic, **caring** and fun staff. My son, now school aged, has had **life changing**, self esteem building camp experiences at Sand Point and now begs me to sign him up for after school programs at his school. My daughter continues to enjoy playing with her friends in Kids Gym, they all know her name and let her know she is missed when we don't come for awhile. The Y really rounds out our family in healthy, positive and fun ways. Thank you!

-Y Family

My daughter loves the Y. All of her friends come from the YMCA. Her 2 best friends don't even attend her own school, but they all play together at the YMCA. When we ask her about the favorite part of her day - she always tells us about her time at the YMCA. Without the Y, she wouldn't have her same friends and we wouldn't have the same experience either. We can't thank the Y enough! Without the money raised from the **Partners With Youth** campaign, we wouldn't be able to be a part of the Y community. We are beyond grateful for the passion and devotion the staff has toward our child and every child in the programs!

-Danielle, Family Programs Parent