



# Y IMPACT

*A twice-yearly update on how you're helping communities shine*

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## **Hello from the Y's development team!**

Did you know that you're THE BEST? Thank you for igniting growth and belonging for people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities at the Y – so that everyone gets the chance to shine.

We're excited to introduce you to Sarah Kirk, the Y's Development Officer who you'll often find at the StarTech.com YMCA or Family YMCA of St. Thomas-Elgin (as in the picture above). Sarah is an avid basketball player and coach, a resident of Fingal, and the fearless leader of our YMCA Fill the Bus campaign ([www.ymcaswo.ca/fill-bus](http://www.ymcaswo.ca/fill-bus)).

*Have a Y story you'd like to share to welcome Sarah, or a project you're keen on supporting? You can reach her at [sarah.kirk@ymcaswo.ca](mailto:sarah.kirk@ymcaswo.ca) or 519.852.2284.*

# Michele's Y Story

Nearly a decade ago, I was a single mother, recently graduated from university, without a job and relying on family support to get by.

When I was finally offered a full-time, entry-level position at a marketing firm, I was thrilled, yet overwhelmed. I had no child care arranged, I was still waiting for subsidy approval, and I didn't have the upfront funds required to pay full-price child care while waiting for my first paycheque. What should have been a moment of hope quickly became a source of uncertainty and stress.

In that moment, the YMCA stepped in.

**I found myself in a meeting with Kelly, the camp administration manager, and after explaining my situation (there were tears involved, I was that stressed), she responded with words I will never forget: "We got you."**



And they did. My child was enrolled in summer camp at Centre Branch, I received the subsidy support I needed, and the Y arranged for my contributions to begin only once I was receiving income. Without that support, I may not have been able to accept the job that ultimately launched my career.

Today, in a full-circle moment, I work for the YMCA in the MarComm department; an opportunity that might never have been possible without the help I received all those years ago. That experience shaped my life, and it's a constant reminder of the profound impact this organization has on individuals and families every day.

This is why I now give. My monthly contribution is modest, and I hardly notice it in my budget, but I feel immense pride knowing it helps create opportunities for others, just as the Y created one for me.

**You never know the difference your support will make. It may open a door, sustain a family, or quite literally change the trajectory of someone's life.**

# Your Impact by YMCA Community

With your help, the one in three Y members with financial barriers (approximately 12,000 people per month) have the chance to experience "I can do it" moments at their local YMCA. **We've very grateful!** Here's a snapshot, by local community, of the \$2,335,804 in YMCA financial assistance (subsidies) provided to people in need for Y health, fitness, and aquatics memberships in 2025.



Centre Branch . . . \$345,497	Komoka . . . . . \$29,394	Stoney Creek . . . \$569,707
Chatham . . . . . \$125,382	Petrolia . . . . . \$38,781	Strathroy . . . . . \$57,278
Clinton . . . . . \$12,303	Sarnia . . . . . \$217,815	Watford . . . . . \$30,704
Forest . . . . . \$27,886	St. Thomas . . . . \$239,568	Woodstock . . . . \$21,139
Goderich . . . . . \$96,836	StarTech.com . . . \$523,514	(closed)

# *A New Pavilion for Everyone to Enjoy at the Sarnia-Lambton YMCA Jerry McCaw Family Centre*

In Fall 2025, the construction of a new 40-foot by 20-foot outdoor pavilion was completed at the Sarnia-Lambton YMCA Jerry McCaw Family Centre. The project was generously supported by The Judith & Norman Alix Foundation.

The pavilion will allow us to provide cover from the sun and rain for our YMCA Summer Day Camp program, which serves more than 150 children each week through July and August.

It will also be used for outdoor programming throughout the year (when temperatures allow it!) such as PA Day camps, Y fitness classes, and community gatherings.

This new addition will allow the Y to extend our programs and services outdoors, while opening up more indoor space to run simultaneous programming.

“On behalf of our family, The Judith & Norman Alix Foundation is proud to support the Sarnia-Lambton YMCA pavilion – an outdoor space created to give children and youth room to grow, connect, and thrive beyond four walls,” says foundation president Joe Alix. “This investment reflects our parents’ legacy of supporting our youth and building community spaces that will serve generations to come.”

**Sending our heartfelt thanks to the Alix family for this tremendous investment in the Y, our members and participants, and the Sarnia-Lambton community!**



The Y is generously supported by:



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Shine On