



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

HELLO FROM THE Y'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM!

Take a look at the wonderful humans above – staff members and friends representing our StarTech.com YMCA. They don't possess super-human strength, but together they pushed a school bus across the finish line in London – raising much-needed funds to help local kids with financial barriers access Y camps, programs, and services.

If you're receiving this newsletter, it means you're an awesome YMCA supporter –

**AND WE
THANK YOU!**

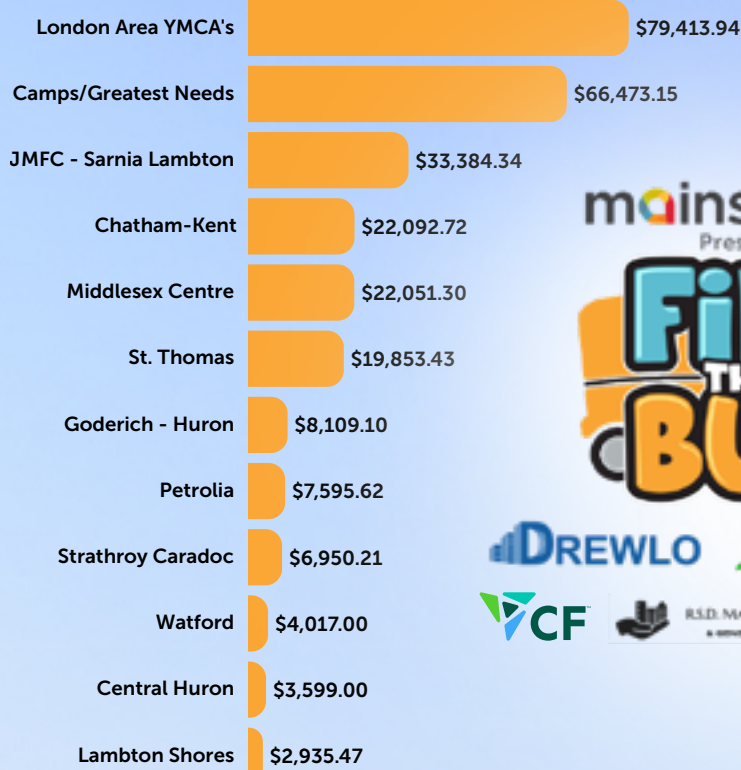
Shine On  Southwestern
Ontario

Your Impact:

2026 YMCA Fill the Bus Campaign

With your incredible generosity, **we've raised \$276,000** to help ensure that ALL children get to experience fun, friendship, and adventure at the Y. That's enough to provide access to YMCA camps, programs, and services for **1,380 kids – 36 buses full!**

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR, MAINSTREET CREDIT UNION, AND EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!



Our Impact in 2026



36

buses full of children creating memories



1,380

subsidized weeks of camps & programs



\$276,000+

dollars raised across Southwestern Ontario



YMCA Celebrates Youth Across Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent



At the Y, we nurture future potential and grow leaders of tomorrow. Through our work, we support the development of healthy, caring adults – fostering stronger futures for our communities.

The annual YMCA Celebration of Youth Awards is one example of our commitment to investing in young people across Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent. The awards honour graduating or recently graduated high school students whose outstanding achievements contribute to the well-being and future of our society.

Celebration of Youth highlights the importance of volunteerism and community service, in addition to academic or athletic pursuits.

YMCA staff and community volunteers review written applications and conduct in-person interviews to select the successful candidates. In May 2026, 20 incredible young people from Sarnia-Lambton were recognized for their accomplishments. In June, a further 11 accomplished youth from Chatham-Kent were celebrated.

Each honoree receives a \$1,000 scholarship toward their post-secondary education.

This program wouldn't be possible without the ongoing generosity of our amazing partners in both communities. Thank you so much to our award sponsors!



Honouring Jim Loyer

At the Y's 2026 Annual Community Gathering, we were delighted to present the William Bowman Award to someone whose longstanding dedication and service have been so meaningful to the Chatham-Kent YMCA and the local community:
Jim Loyer.

- Visit this YouTube link to view the video:
www.ymcaswo.ca/jim

Partners in Motion: A Parkwood-YMCA Collaboration



On June 22, YMCA of Southwestern Ontario was honoured to receive the Partnering for Impact Award at the St. Joseph's Health Care London President's Awards, recognizing the strength of our Partners in Motion collaboration at Centre Branch YMCA.

This award celebrates partnerships that strengthen connections and build more integrated, person-centred systems of care – while nurturing stronger communities. Through our work with St. Joseph's, the Partners in Motion program is helping remove barriers to community fitness for individuals living with injury and disability, creating meaningful opportunities for people to stay active beyond rehabilitation.

Together, we're bridging the gap between hospital care and everyday life – supporting individuals as they build confidence, independence, and connection in a welcoming environment. At the Y, participants are not only continuing their wellness journeys, but also forming friendships and reconnecting with a sense of what's possible.

"This partnership is about more than continuing care – it's about creating a welcoming path where people can rebuild confidence, form meaningful connections, and rediscover what's possible beyond rehabilitation," says Soyuth Sok, the Y's VP of Health, Fitness, and Aquatics. "Together, we're supporting individuals as they move forward with strength and a renewed sense of belonging."

The Y is generously supported by:



Y
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Connect with us!

