



Dear Y Friends,

I'd like to share a story with you that was recently relayed to me by one of our sponsorship families. "When my children and I started our family membership at the Y, I did it because we needed to be healthier, and I needed a safe space for my children to be while I worked out. What I found was so much more than a workout facility, I found an extended family that cared for my family and our wellbeing. I hope you know that you are providing an extremely beneficial service for our community, and I am truly thankful for the sponsorship you provided".

It is stories like these that warm my heart and why I do what I do. I am asking for your support to make sure other lives are impacted. Every child deserves to learn how to swim, to play on a team and learn a new skill. **With your help, we can offer financial assistance to those who cannot afford a Y membership or Y programming and never turn anyone away because of their inability to pay.** Your gifts to The Strong Kids Campaign create opportunities for youth, adults, and families by providing scholarships and programs to those who need it. Last year, we were able to provide over \$100,000 in financial assistance and my hope is to increase that amount in 2024.

At our Y, strengthening community is our cause and as a result the Strong Kids Campaign makes accessible opportunities that empower people and our community to learn, grow and thrive. We focus on our four core values of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring into everything we do. **Please donate today!**

Making a gift is as simple as completing the included brochure and sending it back to us or donate through our website at www.cantonfamilyymca.org by clicking the donate button or by calling the YMCA at 309-647-1616.

We thank you for your generosity!

Blessings,

Mark

Mark Sawyer
CEO/Executive Director