



Dear Y Friends,

Hello! I am super excited to be back to the place that made me who I am today. I am Mark Sawyer, the new CEO/Executive Director at the Canton Family YMCA. From the time I was a young boy taking swim lessons and learning how to dribble a basketball, the YMCA felt like home to me. The people who influenced me on swim team and hired me for my first job are leaders who still mentor me to this day. The Y was here for me through my childhood as well as through my teen years, making memories with my friends and family. I met my wife at this Y. My kids have spent time in babysitting, preschool, tumbling, swim lessons, playing soccer, swimming on swim team and two had their first work experience at this YMCA. After 36 years of working in the YMCA I am passionate about making sure the Canton Family YMCA is able to impact others the way it has impacted me.

I am asking for your support to make sure other lives are impacted. I don't want to turn any child away from a program that can improve their life. I want the Y to feel like a safe place to make friendships and develop skills. 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. Your gifts to The Strong Kids Campaign create opportunities for youth and adults by providing scholarships to those who may not be able to afford memberships or programming, it helps us expand programs to the underprivileged, and enhance the YMCA experience for everyone. Last year, we gave away over \$100,000 in financial assistance and our goal is to increase that amount in 2023.

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. Our building is simply a tool we use to achieve our mission of putting Christian principles into practice to build a healthy spirit, mind and body. We focus on our four core values of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring and making our community stronger, healthier and more connected. 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](http://www.cantonfamilyymca.org) or by calling the YMCA at 309-647-1616.

We thank you for your generosity!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark'.

Mark