



We have more Y Associate Shout Outs than I can remember in a long time! These are great stories about pitching in, reaching out, showing initiative, being a great colleague, and going the extra mile: all of which are hallmarks of Y associates and our organizational culture.

Helen Goode (Family Center Operations Associate, The Orokawa Y in Towson)

Every week Helen goes above and beyond for our center. She not only organizes to provide a great time for the children, she participates with a kind smile. She has plenty of unique crafts filed away to set up for everyone. She allows everyone to feel included, whether they are a team member or child. Whether you are the most active child or one who needs a quiet break. Even when I have to work in another department I witness that Helen works hard to provide a variety of fun activities. She has strong leadership ability. Helen is capable of working on the fly. She will have everything in place, yet if something changes, she is flexible and ready to go! (Submitted by Heidi Lea Hunter)

Dayana Henriquez (Family Center Operations Associate, The Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold)

Dayana goes above and beyond with every individual she meets regardless of how big or small the situation is. She makes everyone feel welcome and has a vast knowledge of even the smallest of details regarding the Y. She always puts others first. (Submitted by Kayla Johnson)

Michelle Morrow (Regional Fitness Director, Y Family Centers)

Michelle is always so upbeat and amazing with engaging members and helping associates at every center she has in her region. I go around to all the centers throughout the week and I always see Michelle at one of her centers, working, teaching, doing a Leader of Duty (LOD) shift. No matter what, she is always so pleasant and walking around checking on associates. Great job Michelle! (Submitted by Jill Black)

Izzie Powell (Family Center Operations Associate, The Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold)

Izzie is just the best! She is reliable, a hard worker, flexible, and so on. She exudes a quiet confidence and calm demeanor in whatever role she is in. We are lucky and grateful to have her in our center & on our team!!! (Submitted by Kathleen Murphy)

Shikera Shelton (Family Center Operations Associate, The Y in Druid Hill)

Shikera put together a "Friendsgiving" for all the associates at the Druid Hill Y. We went around the table saying why we were thankful for one another, and it really brought home what makes our working relationship so special. (Submitted by Anonymous)

De'Andre Shearin (Operations Director The Y in Parkville)

De'Andre is always so positive and supportive at all times. He addresses any concerns immediately and he is a true pleasure to work with. De'Andre was especially helpful today as we had an associate call out and De'Andre worked in our Stay & Play area for the entire shift. Not only did he fill in at the last minute, he did it with a smile and he was extremely engaging with the children. I just love his sense of humor and he really knows how to "lift" our associates and members. (Submitted by Carol Beecher)

Tyler Stitcher (Family Center Operations Associate, The Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold)

Tyler is the consummate Y associate!! He is the Y through and through. Tyler is great with members, he understands safety, quality, pays attention to details and has a genuine passion for what he does. He can help in fitness, lifeguarding, day camp, Stay & Play, sports, membership, etc. He gives 100% in everything he does and it shows! THANK YOU TYLER! (Submitted by Kathleen Murphy)

Jennifer Umphlett (Operations Director, The Orokawa Y In Towson)

Ms. Jenn is always covering the center's Leader on Duty (LOD) shifts, including morning and evenings. I feel like Jenn doesn't get enough credit for the work that she does. She's a good and cool manager. (Submitted by Aniyah Brown)

Jacques Wiecech (Regional Fitness Director, Y Family Centers)

THANK YOU JACQUES for all of your dedication, honesty, commitment, and hard work in all of the roles you held with the Y in Central Maryland. From personal trainer, to Fitness Director at Pasadena, to emergency child care worker, LITTER BUG POLICE (LOLOL), and so much MORE. It has been a pleasure to work with you and get to know you. Wishing you nothing but the BEST! (Submitted by Kathleen Murphy)

Zalanka Jones (Senior Director of Teen Experience, Y Family Centers) and Erica Lewis (Senior Recruiter)

I am grateful to two incredible colleagues who go above and beyond their job duties to bring joy and inspiration to our social media platforms. Their upbeat and thoughtful posts have added a vibrant touch to our online presence and fostered deeper connections with our community. Their creativity and dedication shine through in every piece of content, making our organization a more engaging and enjoyable space for everyone. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to spreading positivity and making our digital community brighter. We're fortunate to have such talented and passionate individuals on our team! Yay to Erica Lewis and Zalanka Jones for their contributions! (Submitted by Lindsay Crone)

If you have a colleague you'd like to "Shout Out," just fill out the nomination form linked here: [Y Associate Shout Out Nomination](#)

Thanks!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JL' or 'JL' followed by a stylized flourish.

John K. Hoey
President & CEO