



We have lots of wonderful Y Associate Shout Outs today. 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.

Ashley Garris (Site Director, Y School Partnerships at Waverly Elementary/Middle School)

Ashley always has a smile and always gives encouraging words. Her radiant personality just brightens up your day, even if you're not having such a great one. (Submitted by Shakira Potts Enrichment Specialist)

Yaya Koita (Community Health Worker, The Y in Druid Hill)

Yaya has been the backbone of our Michelle Becote-Jackson Fresh Mart at the Y in Druid Hill since last fall. He knows the neighbors and they know and trust him. He helps welcome and train new volunteers and is an incredible wealth of knowledge. The Y in Druid Hill is our busiest pantry and Yaya keeps it afloat! We couldn't do it without him! (Submitted by Margo Nicolson, Food Pantry Program Director)

Celene Loesberg (Membership Sales Manager, The Y in Pasadena)

Celene is a constant and unwavering supporter of the Pasadena Fresh Mart. She provided much needed back-up on Valentine's Day when volunteers cancelled, and even brought Valentines to share with our pantry neighbors! She is a light that brightens the entire Pasadena community! (Submitted by Margo Nicolson, Food Pantry Program Director)

Aiden Powell (Fitness Coach, The Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold)

Aiden always makes sure everything is spot on perfect on the floor. He cleans railings, machines, and the cafe without ever being asked to. I appreciate him! (Submitted by Dylan Martin, Sports Instructor)

Arlene Streeter (Membership Associate, The Y Swim Center in Randallstown)

Arlene is truly my right hand person. She is dependable, efficient, proactive, a problem solver, and assists me with leading and motivating the team and with operations of the entire membership department. She is personable, engaging with members and guests and can totally handle the department in my absence. She deserves applause for her continuous amazing dedicated work. (Submitted by Tawanda Ford, Membership Sales Manager)

Maximus Twigg (Fit Coach & Lifeguard, The Y in Pasadena)

Max is always willing to assist me when I am in need on Saturdays. Every Saturday during Funshop he comes and makes sure I have everything I need. He is also very willing to assist

me during sports lessons when one of the coaches is sick. (Submitted by Gretchen Hartzell, Family Center Operations Associate)

Kurt White (Senior Executive Director, Property, The Weinberg Y in Waverly and the Y in Druid Hill)

Kurt has started to assist me with retail recovery for the Michelle Becote-Jackson Fresh Mart at the Y in Druid Hill. We go together to a local grocery store to collect donations, bring it back to the pantry, take inventory, and get it on the shelves. The success of this program hinges on the relationships we can build with the grocery store and Kurt is the perfect associate for the job! He is incredibly personable and helpful, always with a smile on his face, and always saying "I can help with that!" On Kurt's first day, we received a record donation of 1,000 pounds and Kurt helped process it in record time. I couldn't have done it without him! (Submitted by Margo Nicolson, Food Pantry Program Director)

Dominic Dett and Elijah Obayemi (Membership Associate and Stay & Play Associate, The Y in Parkville)

The Y in Parkville found itself without a sports coach at the very last minute and we didn't want to let our families down! Dominic and Elijah both stepped up and out of their normal roles to lead three soccer skills classes for our members. Everyone had a great time and we can't thank these two enough for being so flexible! Great teamwork guys! (Submitted by Shannon Kowal, Operations Director, The Y in Parkville – job swap)

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 'JH' with a stylized flourish at the bottom.

John K. Hoey
President & CEO