



We have more great Y Associate Shout Outs today. We organize them around our four core operating principles: cleanliness, engagement, inclusion and safety. Of course, many of the Shout Outs could fit under multiple operating principles, and that's a good thing! These are 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.

### **CLEANLINESS**

None submitted this time

### **ENGAGEMENT**

#### **Michelle Coleman (Senior Program Director, Y School Partnerships & Mentoring)**

Here's a direct quote from a student demonstrating Michelle's impact on a young person we serve: *"I played all last year, and I got in so much trouble. I'm a little bit proud of myself, [because] I haven't been playing this year. I've been getting my stuff done. I've learned from my mistakes since last year and I'm really proud of that. I can show my mother this report card. My mother would be so proud! Talking to you has helped me realize that. I know I'm not a bad kid; I'm doing good work."* (Submitted by Natasha Bentzen & Ramona Dowdell)

#### **Jazmine Hull (Membership Associate, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Y in Waverly)**

Jazmine always goes above and beyond to help members. Her bright smile and warm personality always make the Y's members feel welcome. Jazmine is a real team player! (Submitted by Tonya Hull)

#### **Stacie Jones (Membership Associate, The Hill Family Y in Westminster)**

It is a good morning when Stacie is greeting you at the front desk at the Hill Y. She brings a smile and a chuckle to everyone who checks in. When you have a question, she leads you in the right direction. Stacie sets the example of positivity and connectedness for all. (Submitted by Karen Langevin)

#### **Kimmie Kim (Family Center Operations Associate, The Y in Parkville)**

Kimmie has been an exceptional associate since she started with us two months ago. As a Family Center Operations Associate, she works in our Stay and Play, fitness and membership departments. Kimmie is a very positive, warm, professional and engaging associate in every department she is a part of, and she's that way all of the time! She

makes all of our members and associates feel valued and appreciated. She gives an excellent tour as an associate and greets EVERY member coming and going in our Y. Kimmie has picked up so many shifts for us at the last minute and always comes to work with a smile and a professional attitude. She also attended a community event earlier this month and made a big impact on our community. It is a true honor to work with Kimmie. She is truly a model associate. (Submitted by Carol Beecher)

**Angelica Smoot (Group Exercise Instructor, The Dancel Y in Ellicott City)**

My husband and I team teach a Saturday morning BodyPump class that is consistently full. We both came down with a terrible case of the flu, and were unable to teach. Angie already had a full schedule teaching BodyPump classes for the week, including subbing for another instructor who was on vacation. Despite her heavy schedule, Angie generously agreed to sub our Saturday morning class, preventing its cancellation and ensuring the 38 members who attended got their workout! Angie is the perfect example of a team player, the Dancel Y in Ellicott City is fortunate to have her as part of our team. Thank you, Angie! (Submitted by Sue Sawyer)

**Christina Stewart (Family Service Advocate, Y Head Start at Back River)**

Head Start offers support to families who may be facing various forms of trauma. Connecting with these families can sometimes be challenging. Every morning, Christina makes a dedicated effort by standing outside with a radio, playing uplifting music. She engages with children and families through smiles and dancing. This exemplifies the essence of relationship-building and creating meaningful experiences. We appreciate all that you do! (Submitted by Shatia Jones)

**Devon Wilborne (Site Manager, Y Before & After School Enrichment at Richard Henry Lee Elementary School)**

Devon has a genuine connection with every kid and parent that comes to the site. His energy alone can make anyone's bad day a good one. He goes out of his way for the kids and gets involved with their games to make the BASE program more fun for everyone involved. His dedication and enthusiasm is very inspiring and shouldn't go unnoticed! (Submitted by Brenna Shifflett)

## **INCLUSION**

**Carol Beecher (Membership Director, The Y in Parkville)**

Shout out to Carol and her husband for stepping in to support the Y Giving Tree initiative! They made time in their busy schedule to lend a hand and help support and make the season a little brighter for our Y community. Thank you, Carol. (Submitted by Shannon Kowal)

## **SAFETY**

**Joleen Thorne, Antonio Cuffia and Lindsay Mszanski (Custodian, Property Director, and Executive Director, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Y in Waverly)**

Just minutes before the Weinberg Y's Turkey Trot was set to begin, a large pile of glass was discovered along the race route, posing a safety risk for runners, walkers, dogs, and kids.

Thankfully, Lindsay Mszanski (Meyers) was able to quickly alert Joleen Thorne and Tony Cuffia, who both then sprang into action. Together, they cleaned up the hazardous mess just in time, ensuring a safe race for all participants. When asked about their motivation for helping on Thanksgiving morning, Joleen quipped, "It's all for the runners. Everything we do is for them!" Their quick thinking and teamwork truly saved the day. THANK YOU, Joleen, Tony and Lindsay! (Submitted by Casey Reidpath)

If you have a colleague you would 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 large loop at the bottom.

John K. Hoey  
President & CEO