

Written by Erin Jerabek
Wednesday, 20 June 2012 15:26



Each time I visit the West Broadway YMCA, I am impressed by the studiousness and excitement of the youth, the cutting edge educational programming and I am delighted to spend time with the friendly and engaging staff.

Henry Crosby and the staff at the West Broadway YMCA are creating amazing opportunities for Twin Cities youth. This is not your everyday YMCA; the focus on youth development is unprecedented and might just be the national model moving forward.

The focus of the North Community YMCA is urban youth development. Its vision states, “All urban children and teens thrive and are prepared to succeed in their next stage of life. The Y (as it is frequently referred) is the hub in the urban community that connects assets and opportunities, creating hope and social change.”

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Due to the unique and progressive programming, the North Community Y has members from across the Metro Area. Programming is not just swimming and basketball; they offer a variety of youth development and healthy living programs which include after-school, childcare, aquatics and summer programs, sports, day camping, intervention and educational enrichment through technology and the arts.

The North Community YMCA and its staff believe they have a social responsibility to the communities they serve. They have been successful in building leaders within neighborhoods of highly concentrated poverty; working to reduce the economic and educational disparities that impact our children and teens. The Y programming is based on the belief that all urban children and teens thrive and are prepared to succeed in their next stage of life. It is a hub in the urban community that connects assets and opportunities, creating hope and social change, nurturing the potential of every child and teen by partnering with urban communities to engage youth through transformational experiences and opportunities to learn.

The Y hires a diverse team of staff that is reflective of the communities it serves. In addition, the Y prepares staff to be culturally competent through professional development and intentional reflection.

The Y is an environment that welcomes diversity among youth and staff. It creates programs that promote physical, cognitive, and character/social development for young people, and provides opportunities for youth to practice the teamwork and leadership skills that will be critical for their success in school, work, and life.

The Y intentionally creates progressive, long-term programs that are developmentally appropriate and offer pathways or “ladders” to leadership.

I encourage everyone to stop by or contact the YMCA staff directly for membership opportunities.

The Y was reconstructed and modernized in 2008. The building originally, built in 1974, was converted into a youth and teen enrichment center offering opportunities for ages five to 25. Facility rental for meetings and special event is available upon request. The Y offers after

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school programming for youth and teens from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays.

North Community YMCA Youth and Teen Enrichment Center

Address: 1711 West Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Phone: 612-588-9484

Website – www.ymcatwincities.org