YWORLD SERVICE™

Winter 2009 Newsletter

2008 YMCA World Service campaign exceeds goal!

This issue features updates on the **2008 and 2009 YMCA World Service campaign,** program highlights from the **Philippines YMCA** and a new **YMCA-to-YMCA partnership** between the **Honduras YMCA** and the **YMCA of the Greater Elgin Area in Illinois**. For more updates and photos on the life-changing programs supported by you through YMCA World Service, please visit **www.ymca.net/worldservice.**

YMCA World Service Campaign Summary

Thanks to you, the **2008 YMCA World Service campaign** raised more than **$1,195,000** to strengthen YMCAs around the world. Because of you, youth from more than **40 countries** are developing vital life skills through YMCA health, education, recreation, camping and employment programs and volunteer service. The **2009 World Service campaign** is off to a great start with more than **$360,000 pledged** so far. Of this amount, **$103,000 was raised from YMCA of the USA staff** who increased their support this year to the global YMCA mission.

Building a Strong YMCA Movement: Spotlight on the Philippines YMCA

Strengthening YMCA Movements

Forty percent of the Filipino people live at or below the poverty line and opportunities for employment are limited. More than one million Filipinos leave their families and country each year to look for employment overseas. In response to the challenging economic conditions, the **Philippines YMCA** organizes innovative vocational training and employment programs to help stem the tide of emigration.

The **Asuncion YMCA,** for example, runs employment and education programs for underprivileged families in the community.

One of their most successful projects is the **Rickshaw Livelihood Project.** This project identified and trained 58 unemployed male rickshaw drivers. The drivers share the management and maintenance of eight rickshaws to generate income for their families. The YMCA helped the rickshaw drivers' wives to develop micro-businesses to generate additional employment and income. These include pig rearing, small retail shops, sewing and dressmaking. The YMCA also organizes preschool programs with meals for the children of the rickshaw drivers. The impact of the Asuncion YMCA on the health and livelihood of the families has been dramatic. The future for the children will be much more promising in the years ahead.

Strengthening Inclusion and Building Global Community in the U.S.

The Honduras YMCA – YMCA of the Greater Elgin Area (IL) Partnership

Rick Reigner, CEO, YMCA of the Greater Elgin Area, participated in a YMCA of the USA International Leadership Institute (ILI) to Central America in 2007. As a leader in a YMCA where the community demographics are changing rapidly (the community is now more than 30 percent Latino), Rick went on the trip to learn more about the culture and socio-economic conditions of Mexico and Central America. Rick was so moved by the immersion experience that his YMCA established a partnership with the **Honduras YMCA** in 2008. Their financial support ($2,500) directly impacted nearly 800 young people throughout Honduras. It helped bring them together at a special YMCA Youth Assembly to develop the national vision and framework for youth civic engagement, public policy, volunteerism, technology, education, employment and health.

The benefits of the Y-to-Y partnership for the Elgin YMCA and local community were also very meaningful. It helped them to:

- **Strengthen YMCA leadership commitment** to understand and connect with diverse communities;
- **Build greater understanding** of the richness and diversity of Central American cultures;
- **Develop new programs and outreach** to foster inclusion and build bridges in the community;
- **Create new opportunities for cross-cultural** learning by connecting with the Honduras YMCA;
- **Increase collaboration and outreach** with Latino organizations, youth and families in the local community;
- **Strengthen community inclusion and bridge building in partnership** with parents and schools in Elgin;
- **Establish an international committee and increase involvement in YMCA World Service** to improve local fundraising.

"We believe this is important work for our YMCA and helps fulfill our mission on a more global basis. We also believe it helps define us and articulate who we are in our community and how we are different from others. We will now begin the work of telling our story to the larger Elgin community and look for other partners to help us continue our work" -- Rick Reigner, CEO, YMCA of the Greater Elgin Area

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Tips to help raise awareness of YMCA World Service and the global YMCA movement:

- Include a presentation on YMCA World Service at your next meeting
- Organize an international committee at your YMCA
- Reach out to serve more newcomers and immigrants in your community
- Ask youth leaders to organize a fundraising event for YMCA World Service

Contact the YMCA of the USA International Group to learn more on how you can strengthen your global engagement.

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