

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the YMCA a charitable organization?

Yes. The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is a not-for-profit organization classified by the Internal Revenue Services as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Based on that designation, all contributions to the YMCA are considered tax-deductible. The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is reviewed annually and maintains an Accredited Charity designation by the Better Business Bureau.

What is the difference between a health club and the YMCA?

The YMCA has a purpose and philosophy built into its programs, recognizing that there is more to achieving good health than just strengthening muscles. Our mission is an essential component of every YMCA program. We focus on character development, demonstrating Christian principles through the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Moreover, the YMCA is an inclusive organization and turns no one away because of race, religion, gender, physical ability or inability to pay.

Why should I contribute when I already pay dues as a member?

Your membership dues cover the cost of your facility or program membership but do not support the additional cost of our scholarships to reach out into the community and help those in need. Access for all is possible only through the additional funds we raise from Y friends and members like you who want to help others.

Do contributors receive special membership privileges?

Donors receive recognition as YMCA supporters, and their gifts will qualify as charitable deductions under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service. However, contributors do not receive any special membership or program privileges because of their charitable contribution.

How much of what is contributed stays in the community?

All contributed dollars are used for programs and services in the communities served by the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati. Our Y prides itself in keeping our administrative and fundraising expense at about 12%, well below the standards for accredited charitable organizations.

Doesn't the YMCA already receive additional funding from the Metro United Way?

The Metro United Way is a valued supporter of the YMCA; however, it currently contributes less than 1% of our budget. Metro United Way encourages the Y to solicit money from its friends and members to increase its services to the community.

Who decides how contributions are used?

The YMCA is a volunteer-driven, volunteer-led community service organization. It is governed by a board of directors from the community who serve out of dedication to the mission and purpose of the YMCA.

Volunteer board members approve the YMCA's annual operating budget and regularly monitor revenues and expenses over the course of each fiscal year.

Will the Y accept an in-kind gift?

Yes. The needs of the YMCA are not just monetary. YMCA programs also benefit from contributions of equipment such as computers, video equipment and tools. The fair market value of donated items is tax-deductible. However, the value of in-kind contributions does not count in the Annual Campaign total.

Somebody already contacted me. Why are you calling me again?

Occasionally this happens if you or another family member participates in activities at more than one branch or if you know volunteers affiliated with another branch. Many people wish to contribute to multiple branches and doing so is an option for you.

Now is not a good time—can I give later?

As a donor, you can choose to contribute smaller amounts monthly, quarterly, or semiannually, or give one lump sum later in the year. Pledging your support now and making a payment later is often the preferred way to give generously.

Why do you need more money? Didn't you receive a \$10 million gift last year?

Yes! We the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati was incredibly fortunate to receive a gift of \$10M from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in December 2020. We are working to finalize the spend down of that gift over the next few years. We will focus our priorities around youth development, healthy living, social responsibility, sustainability, and forging a new path in a post-pandemic world.