We believe our communities are stronger when everyone feels welcome and we work together for the common good.

Created by YMCA of the USA’s national partner Welcoming America, Welcoming Week, which took place September 14-23, celebrates the growing movement of communities that fully embrace new immigrants and refugees and their contributions to the social fabric of our country.

It’s a chance for neighbors – both immigrants and U.S.-born residents – to get to know one another and celebrate what unites us as a community!

This year, our YMCAs joined with hundreds of Ys and other organizations nationwide to host events to celebrate immigrants’ contributions to communities and bring together all residents in a spirit of unity.

“At the YMCA of Snohomish County, we believe the community is stronger when everyone feels welcome and we can all work together for the common good,” said Tami Farber, VP Equity, Advancement & Global Engagement.

“We are proud to be a part of Welcoming Week, which is demonstrating that in places large and small, rural and urban, people of all backgrounds are coming together to create stronger communities,” Farber continued.

“It is a time to celebrate the shared values that unite us as neighbors, parents, and colleagues, and to make our towns more welcoming to newcomers and to everyone who calls our community home.”

Welcoming Week activities were free and open to the public.

A sample of branch activities included:

- Traditional Mexican Sand Painting
- Traditional Filipino Dance
- Henna Tattooing
- Japanese Taiko Drummers and Dancers
- Community Cultural Potlucks

“These events are part of a powerful and growing movement in our country and around the world, demonstrating that communities want to be welcoming,” said Rachel Peric, Executive Director of Welcoming America.

Welcoming Week is a reminder of the resilient and inclusive spirit of American communities. Thousands of local leaders nationwide are bringing their communities together to bridge divides and build stronger local economies where everyone belongs.
Access for All:
The YMCA of Snohomish County makes every effort to ensure that no person, especially youth, will be denied access to programs and membership because of financial hardship. The YMCA’s Access for All program is supported by contributions to our Annual Campaign and United Way.

Mission Statement:
To inspire, nurture, and strengthen culturally vibrant communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

President’s Perspective

Dear Friends:

As we approach the end of the year, it’s a time for giving thanks, feeling gratitude, and reflecting.

At the YMCA, we have much to be thankful for: a supportive community of members, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors; providing impactful programs and activities to strengthen our communities; and the construction of the new Everett YMCA to serve more people.

And while I think of all of that, what weighs heavy on my mind are the ongoing incidents of hate taking place across our nation. At the YMCA, our mission is “to inspire, nurture, and strengthen culturally vibrant communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.” This is a time for the Y to continue to reflect on its role in how best to support our communities as we witness ongoing tragedies that continue to impact our communities.

The Y is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected, and secure children, adults, families, and communities. The Y makes accessible the support and opportunities that empower ALL people to learn, grow, and thrive. Everyone is welcome - regardless of age, religion, gender, income, or background.

The Y remains committed to the principles and practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion at all our branches, and in all our programs. Events such as Welcoming Week promote cross-cultural understanding and community cohesion by bringing together immigrants and U.S.-born residents in a spirit of unity.

IMPACT IN ACTION

Achieving as she learns

Born and raised in Jordan, Fatima came to America in the middle of 5th grade, not knowing any English. School was hard, and she was in ELL (English Language Learner) classes throughout middle school.

During the summer after 6th grade, she discovered the Y’s Code Teen program, where she heard guest speakers and visited colleges for the first time. In high school she participated in the Y’s My Achievers Program (MAP), which helped her figure out who she was and who she wanted to be.

Fatima recently graduated from Mariner High School, has earned 40 college credits through Sno-Isle Skills Center, and works as a Boeing mechanic on the 777x. She credits the YMCA with opening her eyes to all the possibilities in life.

“Wherever I will be in life, the Y will always be a part of who I am.”
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Construction has begun on the new Everett YMCA, a state-of-the-art, multigenerational hub for the entire community. A warm and welcoming environment, it will become the community center to enhance healthy lives and strengthen our community for generations of children, youth, adults, seniors, and families.

• During the month of September, we poured more than 430 cubic yards of concrete. This includes the deep foundation for the gymnasium, the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring space, and the intergenerational and community gathering spaces.

• In early October, we placed a 14’ tall concrete shear wall that supports the northwest staircase, easily visible from the Rucker side of the project. The gymnasium floor slab was also placed.

• Concrete masonry block wall construction has begun in the locker rooms and the first lift of asphalt was placed in the west half of the future parking lot.

We encourage you to drive by the site at 4730 Colby to see the progress for yourself or visit THENEWEVERETTYMCA.ORG for regular photo updates.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to our generous community, we have raised $15.8 million on a goal of $17 million, leaving $1.2 million remaining.

We would like to invite everyone in our YMCA/BBBS community, throughout Snohomish County, to consider supporting the new Everett YMCA and home for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).

The Everett Y has been the backbone of our Association for 120 years, and this new Y will ensure the Everett Y continues serving our community for another 120 years.

Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated, and all gifts can be paid over five years, allowing everyone to offer a personally meaningful pledge of support, and the time needed to realize it.

A few giving opportunities to consider:

• At the $50,000+ giving level, there is the opportunity to name a room or element within the new YMCA.

• At the $10,000 giving level, your name will be included on the permanent donor wall.

• At the $5,000 giving level, you can have a landscaping paver engraved with your name or a brief saying.

For more information about how to support the new Everett YMCA, please contact Jennifer Willows, VP and Chief Development Officer at 425 374 5745 or jwillows@ymca-snoco.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• MLK Day of Service  Jan. 21
• Mill Creek YMCA Benefit Gala  Feb. 16
• Online Camp Registration is Open  Feb. 15
• Prayer Breakfast  Apr. 19
• Healthy Kids Day  Apr. 27
CONNECTING KIDS TO THE COMMUNITY
YMCA collaborates with Denney Juvenile Justice Center

We know that there is a mentoring gap in America, and that one-in-three young people will grow up without a mentor. For young people who face a variety of risk factors, that could lead them to become disconnected from school and work, resulting in negative outcomes. Chances to get in trouble increase for kids without a connection to positive adults.

In Snohomish County, many of these youth show up at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center. It is here, where programs such as Arts with a Purpose connect youth with caring adults and positive influences. The YMCA is part of the outreach circle, providing program youth with a safe place to dance.

Arts with a Purpose is part of the Youth Enrichment Services program, which provides a detention alternative to secure confinement. Instead of serving time in detention, youth attend classes and get connected to resources.

According to Mike Irons, Program Manager with the Snohomish County Juvenile Court, “Connection to community is a protective measure, and the courts can’t provide that. Denney wants to partner with folks who want to build community, and the YMCA is part of this important support network.”
Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has been serving youth since 1904, and in Snohomish County since 1987. Its mission of providing an adult role model for youth and supporting one-to-one mentoring relationships has never changed.

In October, BBBS unveiled a bolder visual identity that will fully capture the energy and urgency of its mission, with the goals of raising awareness, serving more kids, and recruiting more volunteers. The new main brand idea is:

**TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL**

We hope you will continue supporting BBBS in its fight for the biggest and brightest possible futures for children and supporting the Bigs, Littles, guardians, and volunteers who work to defend their potential.

To learn more or become a Big, visit BBBS-SNOCO.ORG.

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**PUTTING THE FUN IN LEARNING**

**Funko staff mentor teens**

Who knew learning could be so much fun? On Nov. 2 from 3–5 pm, Funko hosted middle and high school youth from the YMCA and Big Brothers Big Sisters for a launch party.

In addition to pizza, pool, air hockey, pinball machines, and bowling, there was the opportunity to talk with the artists that make the Funko Pops come to life. This included sculptors, concept designers, packaging artists, and other company creatives.

The launch party is the beginning of a learning collaboration that will last throughout the school year. Once a month, Funko staff will connect with YMCA and BBBS youth to teach different aspects of the creative process.

Ben Butcher, VP of Creative for Funko understands the value in mentoring. “Life is about opportunities and relationships. If you take full advantage of both of these, you have a real good chance of achieving your goals,” said Butcher.

“Partnering with the YMCA is a chance for Funko staff to pass along this idea to the youth in our community,” Butcher continued. “Maybe we can spark that first opportunity, inspire them to believe that they can accomplish anything they set their mind to, or simply make a new friend. Meeting the kids and seeing their passion and energy was inspiring and motivating for all of us. We cannot wait to see what we accomplish together!”
OUR WORK IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!

At the YMCA we focus our work in three key areas, because nurturing the potential of kids, helping people live healthier, and supporting our neighbors are fundamental to strengthening communities.

Membership dues and program fees help pay overhead and keep our doors open; however it’s individual donations from the community that allow us to open doors and create opportunities for all members of our community. The Y relies on generous contributions to make certain we deliver on our mission to inspire, nurture, and strengthen culturally vibrant communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

The YMCA of Snohomish County is grateful for the individuals, families, and businesses whose pledges to the Annual Campaign make our work possible. During the 2018 campaign, 2,709 donors invested $1,564,870 to support and strengthen our community. Limited space precludes listing the names of every donor. Donors listed here contribute $1,000 or more annually to the community through the YMCA.

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YMCA OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
2720 Rockefeller Ave.
P. O. Box 419
Everett, WA 98206-9923

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

The YMCA of Snohomish County Board recently elected trustees and officers for 2018-2019. The Association Board, comprised of community leaders as well as the chairpersons from each of the branch boards, oversees the operations and strategic planning of the organization.

New Trustees for the class of 2020 include: Kristin Meadows, Director, Individual Market Strategy, Premera Blue Cross; Dr. Robin Fenn, Superintendent, Verdant Health Commission; Dr. Aric Coffman, CEO and Market President, The Everett Clinic; Louis Harris, Financial Service Specialist, DSHS and VP, Snohomish County NAACP; Toraya Miller, Community; Brian Baird, VP Aircraft Materials & Structures, Supplier Management, The Boeing Company; and Kathy Coffey, Executive Director, Leadership Snohomish County; Tyler Rourke, Electroimpact; Marjorie James, Tulalip Tribes.

The following members were elected as Board Officers for 2018-19: Chair - Dr. Gary Cohn, Everett Public Schools; Vice Chair - Matt Reinhard, Rhino Ventures, LLC; Vice Chair - Phyllis Turner-Brim, Starbucks Coffee Company; Secretary - Lacey Harper, Snohomish County Executive Office; Treasurer - Monti Ackerman, Fortive; Vice Treasurer - Toraya Miller, First Financial Northwest Bank; Immediate Past Chair - Scott Forslund, Providence Institute for a Healthier Community.

Returning Trustees include: Andrew Ballard, Marketing Solutions Inc.; Bob Dobler, Gamut360 Holdings, LLC; Brian Evans, Madrona Financial Services, LLC; Jeret Garcia, Valley Electric; John Haarlow, Snohomish County PUD; Renee Jensen, Evergreen Health Monroe; Ken Kettler, Tulalip Resort Casino; Carol Klein, Klein Honda; Jaxon Kronberger, The Boeing Company; Leslie Lauer, Community; Josh O’Connor, The Daily Herald/Sound Publishing Inc.; Dan Ollis, Vibe Coffee Group; Darren Redick, Providence Regional Medical Center Everett; Fred Safstrom, Housing Hope; and Mike Zubovic, Aviation Partners Boeing.