



EDWARDSVILLE YMCA
 Niebur (Esic) Center
 Meyer Center
 Allison Cassens Early Childhood
 Development Center
www.edwardsvilleyymca.com

A Monthly Newsletter For Our Members

Issue 9 | February 2019

A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS IS OUR CAUSE

The Edwardsville YMCA has entered one of their most important times of the year; raising funds for scholarships for individuals and families in need. The Annual Campaign offers a helping hand to youth, families and seniors by providing memberships, programs, outreach services, childcare and summer camp. The Y reaches out to individuals and businesses in the community, as well as staff and members, to help support their Financial Assistance Program.

Year after year, the amount of requests for financial assistance grows. Some of the applications stem from job loss, doctor recommendations, single parent households, family tragedy, fixed income or having a special needs child. Last year over \$275,000 was given away through financial assistance, positively impacting over 4,000 individuals; of that amount, over \$151,000 was raised during the Annual Campaign.

Tom Verheyen, CEO of the Edwardsville YMCA, reflects on those seeking assistance, "Our promise to the community is that we will be here to support them and to ensure that the Y is accessible to all regardless of their ability to pay. The Annual Campaign helps us fulfill that promise. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the community. Every dollar raised goes to help provide support for the people in need of the great services the YMCA offers."

While the Y may seem only like a place that people go to swim, workout or watch their kids participate in sports, at the heart of everything they do is helping the those in need. Board President, Mark Motley said, "As a non-profit, the Annual Campaign is key to giving us the resources to take care of the people living in our community. Our YMCA is here to enrich and support the families in our community – and that means everyone, whether you can afford a membership or not."



Because of the support of their staff, members and community, thousands of people have enjoyed the facilities, programs, and services offered by the YMCA over the years. The Y focuses on developing the potential of youth, improving health and giving back to their neighbors. Those possibilities were opened up for those in need because of committed Y friends and generous donors. If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.edwardsvilleyymca.com.



**Meet Sarah
 our January
 STAR!**

Our employee recognition initiative highlights staff who:

- S**hows exemplary customer service & team spirit
- T**op Performer advances the Y through new concepts, programs, membership growth & strengthening the Y within our community
- A**lways shows highest regard for the Y's mission, goals & values
- R**egularly exceeds expectations & requirements
- S**trives consistently to raise the bar of excellence

The winner of January's STARS Award drawing is Sarah Blume! She works in Rec. Sports and has been a tremendous asset to the Y!

Other STARS Award Recipients Were:

- Angie Berlemann, Member Services
- Kyle Black, Skate Center
- Megan Blind, Gymnastics
- Kay Burns, Preschool
- Martha Chaidez, Skate Center
- Sydney Clanton, Member Services/ Child Watch
- Erynn Cotter, Member Services
- Lauren Cotter, Member Services
- Emily Coulter, Aquatics
- Dave Klingensmith, Rec. Sports
- Kim Knecht, Group Fitness
- Katie Koonce, Aquatics
- Chris Lewis, Allison Cassens ECDC
- Kinga Lozowski, Gymnastics
- Bob Nelson, Fitness Center
- Ashley Plummer, Gymnastics
- Abby Reichen, Member Services
- AJ Scheffel, Rec. Sports
- Will Smith, Aquatics
- Keri Teague, Rec. Sports
- Branson Thaxton, Fitness Center

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

DID YOU HEAR?



Over Valentine's Day Week we held our Member Appreciation Week. We want to thank all of the members who took part in our daily toast, free spinning "Love Ride", meeting with personal trainers, blood pressure screenings from Anderson Hospital, smoothie samples from Smoothie King and gathered information from ChiroPro.

Our Daily Prize Winners Were:

T-Shirts: Delma Jean Doonan (N), Cindy Fetter (M), Kristen Hardesty (N), Jennifer Heuschen (M), Betty Johnson (M), Marie Kasubke (N), Don Mayford (M), David Modrusic (N), Kevin Shea (M) & Mengting Wu (N)

Drinkware: Tammi Beck (M), Michael Blair (M), Karen Bonacorsi (N), Mary Brock (N), Ashleigh Deets (N), Johanna Durbin (M), Debbie Floyd (N), Pat McBride (N), Marcy Savoie (M) & Justina Wilour (M)

One Hour of Personal Training: Catie Dezort (N) & Robert Haskell (M)

Y Gift Card: Andrea Hoang (N), Kassie Mapel (N), Breanna Muenstermann (M) & Dreux Perkins (M)

Month of Membership: Craig Alexander, Kourtney Chapman, Vickie Hendricks, Joel Noronha, Jennifer O'Dell & Luci Strotheide

(Please bring membership card. Indicates which building to go to in order to pick up your prize: N=Niebur, M=Meyer)



TUMBLING & TRAMPOLINE MEET

Our annual Tumble & Trampoline Meet is Saturday, February 23rd and Sunday, February 24th. The Candy Classic will take over the Meyer Center both days with setup in the Gymnasium starting Friday afternoon. Parking at the Meyer Center will be very limited. We advise that if you are going to use the fitness center, you should use the Niebur Center during this time.

If you are interested in watching the meet or coming through the vendor fair, admission is:

Adults \$5 • Children & Seniors \$4 • Children Under 3 Free

Events begin at 9:00am both days. For more information, please contact the Gymnastics Director, Jessica Johnson at 655-1460 or jjohnson@edwymca.com.

LOOKING FORWARD

Would you like to know what else the Edwardsville YMCA has in store for you this winter/spring? Here is a glance at some important dates:

FEBRUARY

23RD & 24TH: Tumbling & Trampoline Meet

24TH: Preschool Open House

25TH: Winter 2 Classes Begin

MARCH

4TH: Summer Camp Member Registration Begins

18TH: Summer Camp Non-Member Registration Begins

APRIL

1ST: Spring Session Member Registration Begins

13TH: Healthy Kids Day

15TH - 19TH: Spring Break Activity Day Camp

21ST: YMCA Closed For Easter

A SUMMER ADVENTURE AWAITS

Start planning the kids' summer while it's cold outside! Our Summer Camp catalog is now available online and will be on our desks the week of February 25th. This year's theme is "Discover Adventure". Our experienced, fun-loving counselors will make sure our campers have a fun, safe summer full of new adventures. Campers are able to participate in various games and activities such as gymnastics, rock climbing, swimming and skating as well as weekly field trips and special events right here at the YMCA.

As you plan out what Specialty Camps work best for your camper, please remember to check the dates and times of each camp, you don't want to double-book your camper! Member registration will begin on Monday, March 4th while non-member registration starts Monday, March 18th. If you have any questions about camp, you may contact the camp director, Catie Taylor at 655-1460 or ctaylor@edwymca.com.



A RISING STAR'S NEXT STEPS



Gymnastics Team Member Signs With Division 2 College

When Kharissa Norvell was 2 years old, she begged her parents to put her in ballet and tumbling classes (she had seen these on the television). Her parents enrolled her in ballet, tap, jazz and tumbling classes. She loved them all but definitely showed a preference for tumbling. Around Kindergarten, one of her instructors told Kharissa's parents that they really should look into gymnastics for her as she showed tremendous flexibility and strength. The Norvell's visited a couple of gyms to look at their programs, but Kharissa really liked the one at the Edwardsville YMCA, and the family felt it would be a good fit for her.

Kharissa started out in Mighty Mites to get a feel for the equipment before quickly moving to Level 3 which was the PreTeam group at that time. She and two others were the first PreTeam or Level 3's to get to travel with the team and compete at YMCA meets. After moving onto the team as a Level 4, Kharissa enjoyed competing at YMCA, Amerikids (now AAU) and USAG meets. Sandee Kershner, Val Huntsman, Jennifer Stukenberg and so many other excellent coaches have helped Kharissa excel. She has amassed a large collection of trophies and medals showing her accomplishments in the sport. She has qualified for USAG State every year since she began competing USAG and has also qualified for Regionals at each level. In 2018, she placed 9th at the Illinois USAG State Competition. Kharissa has competed at YMCA Gymnastics Nationals every year since 2013 and always brings home honors.

Kharissa has always kept an extremely full schedule. She was on the football, basketball and competition cheer squads for 2 years in middle school and on the varsity squads at Civic Memorial High School (CMHS) her freshman and sophomore year. After her sophomore year, she left cheer to devote her full attention to gymnastics and coaching. Kharissa has always maintained good grades and stayed on the honor roll and high honor roll. At CMHS, she has also been on the student council and in the science club. Kharissa has volunteered at Riverbend Down Syndrome Horse Camp and in the Children's Ministry at First Baptist Church of Bethalto as well as at art festivals and charity events. When not in the gym, Kharissa enjoys watching squirrels, drawing, painting and listening to music. She is currently competing Level 9 for the second year and still loves competing. She is truly at home in the gym and has been coaching younger gymnasts since she turned 16. It was always one of her goals to coach younger gymnasts in order to give back to the program and to instill a love for the sport in those gymnasts.

Kharissa's future plans are to attend King University in Bristol, Tennessee to major in Nursing and compete in the sport of Acro & Tumbling. She signed her letter of commitment on January 26th to be a NCAA DII athlete. Kharissa chose King University due to its reputation, nursing program, Christian atmosphere, beautiful historic campus with its Southern charm and especially due to feeling an immediate connection with Coach Miranda Merkison. We wish Kharissa all the best in college and for her bright future.

