

YMCA

SPOTLIGHT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS

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mavymca.com

YMCA Program Spotlight

WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM?

The Leaders Club is a group that does volunteering within the Greenfield YMCA and out in the community. It is made up of two smaller groups, the Teen Leaders ages 13-18 and Junior Leaders ages 10-12. Combined, there are almost 50 Leaders this year.

WHY DO YOU DO THIS PROGRAM?

This club is designed to help young teens learn how to work independently and as part of a team, build social skills, create friendships, and learn about ways to help others. The members of the club volunteer in all different departments of the YMCA, including Childcare, the Welcome Center, Janitorial, and more. Many of the Teen Leaders move on to become CITs for the Camp and eventually progress to becoming staff members in the departments.

WHO IS IMPACTED BY THIS PROGRAM?

The Leaders Club helps future generations grow into independent, hardworking, caring and generous adults. Having this club in the YMCA has benefited programs and members alike. Teens are willing to jump in and help in all departments, reach out to lend an extra hand in the childcare departments, and build relationships with staff and members. They become inspirational role models for the even the youngest children as the well-rounded leaders they aspire to become. Many of the Leaders come into the club via the footsteps set by their older siblings. It is phenomenal to have a large group of teens aiming to help others and learn important life skills.

WHAT'S ONE GREAT STORY THAT HAS COME OUT OF THE PROGRAM?

The Greenfield YMCA's Leaders do not only inspire fellow members, they also lend a helping hand to the surrounding community. Leaders have helped with local Recreation Departments and volunteered at a popular Craft Fair in the area. Most recently, the Leaders took action to help those in Puerto Rico who have been affected by Hurricane Maria. The Leaders Club took initiative with the help of Millie Ruiz, an influential YMCA member who assisted the Leaders in hosting a Car Wash and Donation Drive for Puerto Rico. The fundraiser held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 was a big success! The Leaders washed over a dozen cars, held signs on the sidewalks, and helped unload and transfer donations for four hours. The Leaders Club is composed of genuinely kind and big-hearted kids with promising future. Despite the intermittent rain, the kids never stopped working diligently to collect as many donations as possible. These young members knew that standing in the rain and washing cars would be worth it if they could help those in need. After all their hard work, the Leaders Club raised \$590 in cash donations. They received enough donations of baby diapers and wipes, batteries, flashlights, dry pantry food, countless cases of bottled water, and personal feminine hygiene products to fill Millie's minivan and the back of a pickup truck. In all of its years advising the Leaders Club, this was by far one of Greenfield Y's proudest moments.

Program Spotlight



Greenfield YMCA Leaders Club

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact the Massachusetts Alliance
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