

YMCA

SPOTLIGHT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS

3 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, MA
02109

September 2017

mavymca.com

YMCA Program Spotlight

WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM?

The program is a division of the Stryper's Competitive Swim Team that will have specialized support for members with disabilities. The focus of the support is on members with autism and intellectual or developmental disabilities.

WHY DO YOU DO THIS PROGRAM?

There was a need and request from the membership base. The program was designed in response to a request from families who wanted their sons and daughters with disabilities to participate on a swim team but are unable to join a typical team. This program is a division of the Stryper's Competitive Swim team that can be used as a stepping stone for the kids to one day be ready for a typical swim team.

WHO IS IMPACTED BY THIS PROGRAM?

This program will have a positive impact not only on the swimmers, but on their families as well. By diversifying the Stryper's Swim Team to become more inclusive, they are providing an opportunity to engage athletes who may not have joined otherwise. The new swimmers have something unique to bring to the team and every athlete at the South Shore Y will now have the opportunity to engage in physical activity, connect and socialize with other teammates, and participate in a sport that is both fun and beneficial to their physical, social, and emotional development.

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

The movie "Swim Team" was shown during the announcement of the program for the regular team members and their families. There was a very positive response, with applause and cheering from the regular swimmers who were eager to welcome the new teammates.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER Y'S FOR RUNNING THIS PROGRAM?

Any Y starting an inclusion program should reach out to other centers running similar programs. They can be connected with another program director to share information, best practices, and suggestions.

WHAT'S THE BENEFIT TO THE Y?

The benefit of this program is that it strengthens the Y's commitment to serving the community as a whole.

Program Spotlight



South Shore YMCA Stryper's Competitive Swim Team Inclusion Division

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact the Massachusetts Alliance
at intern3ymca@gmail.com