

WHY THE Y?

On Tuesday May 5th, 2020, the Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs, held a CEO CVO Virtual Conference via Zoom. 79 CEOs and Board Leaders participated in the event. Questions asked of CVOs "Why the Y?" & "Why do you stay with the Y as a volunteer, donor and board member." The following was shared:

"Who we serve and the passion with which we serve our community."

"The diversity of the community of health and wellness seekers."

"The YMCA is a safe place for the youth in our community to grow, have fun, and learn to live a healthy lifestyle."

"Believe in the mission, providing opportunities for entire community."

"Same values such as working to make our community better."

"The Y is the go-to place for community members' mental and physical wellbeing for members of all ages."

"The mission and service the Y provides to our community."

"It's the 3rd place in our community—I'm committed to having us join together from different backgrounds."

"The feeling of community...it feels like home/family."

"It's my belief in the mission."

"I grew up at the YMCA. The positive lessons and experiences that I was able to enjoy is worth perpetuating."

"I continue to serve as a board member, teach a fitness class, and volunteer to continue to make our Y a great place for our community. Healthy communities make great communities to live, work and play. Our YMCA's are the heartbeat of communities in literacy, family wellness, education, and improving lives. We fill so many voids. We are not just fitness anymore."

"Value that benefits the entire community."

"To make a difference and to give back."

"The Y has a wonderfully balanced mission – healthy living and strengthening families and communities."

"The Y helps the community across all social and economic strata. Healthy living, caring hearts and principals of Christ know no skin color and no bank balances. I believe this mission is unique to the YMCA and most worthy of my time and talent."

"I am in tears... our YMCA's make me proud. I have goosebumps."