

# PUTTING SUCCESS INTO WORDS



YMCA of Greater Charlotte

3045 N. Davidson Street

Charlotte, NC 28205

[www.ymcacharlotte.org/yreaders](http://www.ymcacharlotte.org/yreaders)

## Y READERS

## WHAT IS Y READERS?

**The Purpose of Y Readers** is to identify children currently reading below grade level and engage them in active learning and enrichment that improves literacy skills and self-confidence in the classroom. Mixing an innovative curriculum with enthusiastic teachers and volunteers, the Y has inspired thousands of children and is critical to the community's collective effort to improve the graduation rate and success of children.

### Origin & History

In partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), the YMCA of Greater Charlotte launched **Project Starfish**, a six-week literacy enrichment camp in the summer of 1999. That first summer, the program served 40 students at Reid Park Elementary. As Project Starfish expanded to include an after-school program in 2004, it was renamed **YMCA Starfish Academy**. In 2006 the program expanded into a second school district, Mooresville Graded Schools with a summer program at Park View Elementary. In an effort to increase awareness and understanding in the community, the program was renamed **Y Readers** in May 2011.

In 2012, Y Readers will have presence in a third school district, Lincoln County, where the summer program will serve students from multiple schools at Iron Station Elementary.

### National Recognition

In March 2012, after an extensive nationwide search, YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) announced that Y Readers will be piloted in five cities across the country in summer 2012 and become a national Signature Program to combat summer learning loss in 2013. Y Readers had the clearest evidence of the impact, collaboration, commitment and scalability needed to help YMCAs of all sizes further nurture the academic potential of children and teens.

### Who is served?

Y Readers serves pre-k through second grade students who need extra support in literacy. The YMCA of Greater Charlotte works with CMS, Mooresville City, and Lincoln County School Districts to identify schools with the highest need for the Y Readers program. School leaders assist in selecting Y Readers teachers and teachers' assistants from their own certified faculty, identify students to participate in Y Readers and provide facilities for both summer and afterschool programs. Together, the Y and the schools track student progress and measure the program's impact.

## Y READERS SITE LOCATIONS

Albemarle Road Elementary\*  
Bailey Road Middle School  
(temporary site for Cornelius Elementary)  
Billingsville Elementary  
Hickory Grove Elementary  
Hidden Valley Elementary\*  
Huntingtowne Farms Elementary\*  
Highland Renaissance Elementary  
Iron Station Elementary (Lincoln County)  
Nations Ford Elementary\*  
Park View Elementary (Mooresville Graded Schools)  
Reid Park Elementary\*  
Thomasboro Elementary\*

\*Summer and afterschool site

***"This strategic partnership with the YMCA highlights the powerful benefit of the community taking action and contributing to student learning and achievement. CMS is grateful to have partners such as the YMCA engage our students in reading during the summer months because we know there is a loss of learning that takes place when young people are not engaged in meaningful learning opportunities."***

- Hugh Hattabaugh, CMS Interim Superintendent

**YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.**

# HOW IS Y READERS FUNDED?

Y Readers is offered to families at no cost.

One **summer** of Y Readers costs **\$1,300 per student**.

One **year** of Y Readers afterschool costs **\$1,300 per student**.

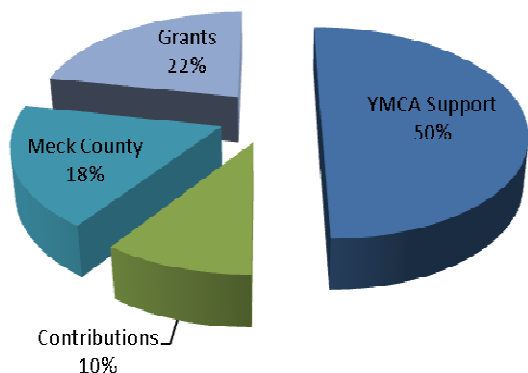
## Revenue

YMCA Support	\$436,175
Grants/Contracts	\$190,600
Mecklenburg County	\$161,000
Contributions	\$85,825

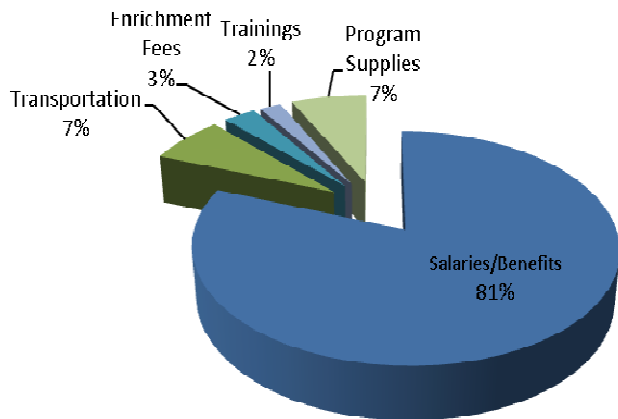
## Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	\$707,616
Enrichment Fees	\$26,208
Program Supplies	\$61,152
Transportation	\$61,125
Trainings	\$17,472
Miscellaneous	\$3,750

**2012 Y Readers Revenue**



**2012 Y Readers Expenses**



# PARENT EDUCATION

Y Readers places a strong emphasis on parental involvement. Parents pledge to read each night at home with their children. During the summer, parents attend a workshop where they construct literacy games to take home and use with their children. During the school year, parents attend two parent workshops about education at home. Past workshops have been about different learning styles, healthy living, and goal setting.

# WHAT DO PARENTS SAY ABOUT Y READERS?

A parent survey allows us to get a view of the child's experience through the eyes of their parents. Here is what parents have to say about Y Readers:

"My child enjoys reading but with the new activities you introduced a great love of reading."

"I am encouraged by the progress my child has made, and I thank you for helping him achieve all that."

"Thanks to this program my son has been reading more every day. Thanks for everything."

"My daughter being in the Y has enriched our whole family."

"Thank you for your support in helping my child be better and do better."

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# WHAT DOES THE Y READERS PROGRAM INCLUDE?

## Literacy Support

Y Readers follows the Four-Blocks Literacy Model which includes guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and phonics. Teachers are responsible for creating and delivering lessons that follow this model.

## Enrichment Activities

One of the main benefits of Y Readers is giving children exposure to experiences they would not normally have. The following enrichment pieces are a core part of the Y Readers program:

### Swimming Lessons (YMCA Community Swim Academy)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children under 12. As part of the YMCA Community Swim Academy which provides free swim instruction to children in our community, Y Readers participate in weekly swim lessons at local YMCAs throughout the summer where students learn basic water safety and swimming skills.

### Science Lessons (Discovery Place)

Y Readers students participate in weekly science lessons from Discovery Place. Lessons include topics such as animal families and what makes them unique, transferring energy using body heat and making objects disappear using mirrors. Students also examine real bones and tissue, see artificial joints and learn how bones and muscles work together to support and move our bodies.

### Health Education

At the Y, we believe that good health must include spirit, mind, and body. Y Readers provides a unique opportunity to increase student engagement with healthy living habits. The Y's Community Health Nurse implements health lessons on germs & hand washing, dental health, heart health, and culture nutrition at each Y Readers location.

### Character Education

Y Readers participate in weekly character education lessons where students learn about and discuss the Y's core values: respect, responsibility, honesty, caring and faith. In addition to these lessons, students are rewarded with character beads for exhibiting the Y's core values in their actions.

### Art and Music Lessons

Each Y Readers site participates in weekly art and music lessons. Lessons align with literacy by including a read aloud or story that tie into the art or music activity.

## Typical Daily Schedule (Summer)

Time	Activity
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Arrival, Breakfast, Devotion
8:30 – 11:00 AM	Four-Blocks Literacy
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Lunch
11:30 – 3:30 PM	Enrichment Activities and Field Trips
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Snack/Closing
4:00 PM	Dismissal

## Typical Daily Schedule (Afterschool)

Time	Activity
3:15 – 3:45 PM	Snack & Physical Activity
3:45 – 5:15 PM	Four-Blocks Literacy
5:15 – 6:00 PM	Enrichment Activities
6:00 PM	Pick-up

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# IS Y READERS SUCCESSFUL?

Students in Y Readers are pre- and post-tested using the STAR Reader test, a testing method recommended by CMS that measures reading comprehension of students in grades K-12. In six weeks, Y Readers summer students raise their reading proficiency by an average of .3, which is equivalent to 3 months of the school year. For the past six consecutive summers, 89% of Y Readers participants have raised or maintained their reading level.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b># of students served in the summer</b>	248	264	390	336	391	400
<b>% of students who raised or maintained their reading level</b>	93%	89%	86%	89%	88%	88%
<b>Avg. reading score increase</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
<b># of days in program</b>	30	31	31	24	23	23

## DOES THE Y READERS PROGRAM ACCEPT VOLUNTEER HELP?

Yes! The YMCA of Greater Charlotte depends on volunteers to assist Y Readers. Y Readers volunteers read with students, assist teachers, lead activities, help with swim lessons and chaperone field trips. The time commitment is one to two hours weekly during the summer, fall or spring and the rewards are immeasurable!

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT Y READERS:

### For more information:

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### To volunteer:

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### To make a contribution:

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