



## Debbie's Y Story:

"I am writing this testimonial to express my gratitude to the YMCA-YWCA for the ongoing and consistent support they have provided for both me and my family throughout the years.

I have raised 5 children on my own while at the same time I have put myself through university earning my bachelor of social work degree in 2005 and am currently earning my masters degree in clinical social work with a graduation goal of 2009. I would like to say that as a student with 5 children and now a 9 month old grandson, it has been extremely challenging financially leaving very little, if anything at all, for extracurricular activities.

I am extremely grateful to have access to wellness and other beneficial activities that we would not have had had their financial assistance program was not available. The YMCA-YWCA has been a strong source of support for my family as they have provided us all with the very best services possible given our individual circumstances.

The Y has been my children's home away from home as this is where they have found solace through various activities and also through developing relationships whether it be with their friends, meeting new friends, or with the Y staff. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Y and all of the staff for making a difference in my life and in the lives of my children.

Being a social worker, I recognize the importance of providing equal opportunity for families to access services. This equal opportunity has made a profound difference in my family. Thank you so very much for being there and for recognizing the importance of providing "equal opportunity" to everyone, not matter what the individual circumstances may be. Your assisted program and the support of your entire staff have certainly contributed to my success as a social worker and to my children's success with maintaining their wellness and most importantly, a healthy sense of self."

**Everyone has a story, tell us yours. Email your Y Story to [aramchuk@ymca-ywca.com](mailto:aramchuk@ymca-ywca.com).**

