



Marie's Y Story:

My husband and I moved to Kelowna in 2003 and bought a farm. We have 3 small children and we decided that a change in lifestyle would be better for all of us. It has been difficult, we have always been rather independent and self sufficient, but we have taken quite a few knocks over the last few years, as has the farming community overall. It wasn't until the kids wanted to be involved with swimming and different programs that I looked into the Y and saw what an amazing facility it was. Within the first couple of months I realized that we wanted to become members, but it wouldn't have been possible unless the generous help of the financial membership assistance program.

Since we have become members of the Y the kids have grown tremendously. They are more independent, they're more adventuresome. They'll agree to do things whereas before they would be a bit hesitant especially my daughter, she is soft of a bit shy by nature but now she is quite outgoing and social and friendly. Before my son would agree to do something if he knew my daughter was there as back up but now he is happy to go to his swim class or go to the adventure club by himself. Our oldest son, he is at the age now that I think he needs to have really good role models and have friends that have the same interests as him. When he attends the Youth In Action Club he gets to have an evening with kids his age and also few years older and its always in a positive friendly environment.

Youth in Action is a place where you can come you can meet other kids from different schools some of them are older than you and you play and have fun. I like it, I like it a lot and I look forward to it all week.

Being a member of the Y, you really feel like you are part of a community. The Y is different, its people get to know you and your family and your kids and your situation. And I just find that it is a closer knit positive environment for us.

As we are assisted members, financial assisted members we are not treated any differently than anybody else and that's, absolutely brilliant. One day I would love to not to have to depend upon financial assistance, that's my goal in a couple of years. It will be fantastic when we are able to become contribute more and to help out and to do other things for kids because our kids have been so positively affected by belonging to the Y, they really thrive in this environment.

Everyone has a story, tell us yours. Email your Y Story to aramchuk@ymca-ywca.com.

