

Encouragement starts here.

Hi! My name is Susan Seifert. I am the Manger of Community & Employment Services and have worked at the YMCA for 30 years. People of all ages and all walks of life come through our doors. I am proud of the breadth of programs and services that we have available to assist people with their individual situations. Change starts here when people get the support and financial assistance they need. That change could be for someone like Gerry; I'd like to share Gerry's story with you:

Gerry suffered from depression and substance abuse and was referred to YMCA Community and Employment services when he became homeless. Gerry was provided with a lot of opportunities. YMCA Employment staff helped Gerry prepare his resume, worked with him on computer skills, and guided him in a job search. "They even helped me prepare for an interview," explained Gerry.

"YMCA Housing staff helped me find safe and clean housing. They believed in me and they were caring and encouraging, despite the fact that I could be a difficult person to deal with because of my past experiences." "The Y worked with me each step along the way. I have been successful in getting temporary employment and can hardly believe how life is turning around!"

Gerry was starting to feel so good about himself he wanted to try to increase his level of fitness. Gerry went to the YMCA for a tour and learned that he would qualify for an assisted membership that he could afford! "I was so happy, because of the Y, I completely turned my life around. Not only did I find employment, I found my health and a community that truly cares about me," said Gerry.

A Healthier Tomorrow Starts Here.

I believe encouragement starts here. Everyone should have access to the encouragement and help they need. I donate to the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign to ensure everyone, like Gerry has the opportunity to turn their life award.

We invite you to make a donation to the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. Donations over \$25 will receive an income tax receipt and may be made online, or at the Welcome Desk as a one time donation or as monthly preauthorized donations.

Please join our caring and supportive network of YMCA volunteers, donors and staff that our community relies on. Your kindness and generosity will spark a story of its own.

With my sincere thanks,

Susan

PS: Thank you to all those who have donated in the past and continue to donate today. Your generosity has made an important impact in someone's life.

