COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
YMCA



The Y **for literacy**



One in five (20%) Americans read below the level **NEEDED TO EARN A LIVING WAGE.**

Between **$106 BILLION AND $238 BILLION** in health care costs each year are linked to low adult literacy skills.

Children surrounded by adults with low literacy rates are **72% MORE LIKELY** to have a low reading level in school.

Community Literacy

The path to a brighter future begins with a book. Early literacy unlocks doors for academic success, emotional development, and economic mobility, and it starts with giving everyone the chance to read.

Our Y is committed to providing greater support to help youth read at grade level. In 2025, 98 students received tutoring through our YRead program, averaging a two-grade increase in reading level after completing the year-long program. We provided almost $230,400 in scholarships to support community literacy.

Community Literacy at
Community Development YMCA

Catherine was a first time tutor who was matched with Ike. When Ike and Catherine started meeting weekly, Ike was struggling with 2 syllable words, comprehension, and confidence. Ten months later, Catherine reported, "Ike's confidence is way up and his mom said he has less time pulled out of the classroom for extra help."



A little over a year after they started in 2025, Ike has graduated from the program. Ike's mom, Andrea said, "We had a wonderful experience with YLiteracy! During our time, we saw noticeable improvements in our son's confidence, fluency, and overall interest in reading. What stood out most was how thoughtfully the tutor individualized their teaching approach. The sessions felt tailored just for him. We're truly grateful for the positive impact this program has had."

You might be surprised to know that Catherine is not a teacher; she works in a pharmacy. But thanks to the funding from generous donors, we are able to provide her with training and materials so that tutoring is possible for any volunteer. Catherine said there were plenty of supplies and support provided so she could adapt to the needs and interests of her own student. Catherine enjoyed watching Ike grow and has already started with a new student this fall. Each year, YMCA Community Literacy provides tutoring to more than 100 youth and adults. **We could not do that without generous donations of both funding and volunteerism. Thank you!**

$75
provides screening and training for a volunteer tutor.

$100
supports targeted reading instruction by providing books and instructional materials for a student and tutor to use.

$700
provides a full year of weekly one-on-one tutoring for a struggling student with a dedicated tutor.

YOU SEE A PERSON READING, WE SEE THEIR DREAMS BECOMING REALITY.

Annual Campaign Goal: $58,000

Current Impact:
131 served last year through 1-on-1 tutoring at no cost.

Opportunity For All

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT YMCA
Caroline Mitchell
caroline.mitchell@gwrymca.org
314.436.1177

Join us as we create opportunity for all. Scan to give.