

the CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF THE Y EXPLORE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up another exciting year at our Y Afterschool program, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support and invaluable feedback. Over the past year, we heard from parents and school administrators, and their input has been instrumental in enhancing our program. Here are some key improvements and milestones we achieved together.

FEEDBACK-DRIVEN ENHANCEMENTS

Feedback has been a cornerstone in our journey to continually improve our Afterschool program. This year, we made several changes based on your suggestions:

- Increased Comunication: Recognizing the need for better communication, we launched our monthly afterschool newsletters in the fall. These newsletters are designed to keep you informed about upcoming events, program highlights, and important updates.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in Action- We introduced the "Youth of the Month" award to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional SEL skills. Additionally, our Parent Newsletter now features an SEL Corner, providing you with tips and prompts to foster healthy, positive personal connections at home.

Y EXPLORE CURRICULUM LAUNCH

In the Fall of 2023, we proudly launched the Y Explore Curriculum, designed in partnership with Mount Vernon Ventures. This innovative curriculum aims to provide youth with extended learning experiences that focus on career exploration healthy living, and our Power of 30/45 Homework Time. Grounded in monthly themes, Y Explore engages students through:

- Imagination Stations
- Clubs
- Specialized Program Activities

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our program has been enriched through strategic partnerships with esteemed community organizations. These collaborations have allowed us to offer unique, hands-on learning experiences to our students:

- Zoo Atlanta Partnership for the Wild About Wildlife program
- Fox Theatre Collaboration for their virtual Fox in a Box program.

IMPACT CORNER

"My grandchildren are learning more compassion, honesty, responsibility, and communication skills!"

"They always go out of their way to help you with whatever you need and work with you to get the best outcome possible. Very friendly and helpful."

"All the staff are amazing! They are always kind and have smiles on their faces. You can tell that they truly love what they do and it is more than just a job to them."

"I'm a single mother of two small children and this program has enabled me to continue my career and provides an affordable option for childcare that keeps them safe, fed and happy."

"They're good at helping my child with her social emotional needs. She has grown so much and is doing better at regulating her emotions!"

VALUED PARTNERSHIPS AND AN EXCITING FUTURE AHEAD

As we look forward to the next academic year, we are thrilled to share a preview of what's coming next in our Y Explore Afterschool program. Please click here to explore the exciting opportunities that await our participants in the 2024–2025 school year.

On behalf of all of us at the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, thank you to the school partners, funders, and community partners who have contributed to the success of the Y Explore Afterschool program. Together, we are making a significant impact on the lives of our participants, fostering their growth, development, and academic achievement.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and looking forward to another fantastic year of learning and exploration!

Warm regards,

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Kim Nelson Senior Vice President of Program Development YMCA of Metro Atlanta

