



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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Lancaster Youth Make the Call for YMCA

(Lancaster, NY) – Eleven teens from the Lancaster community were on hand to assist with the Lancaster Family YMCA’s Strong Kids Campaign Phone-a-thon on Wednesday evening. That evening alone these dedicated students were able to raise \$3,100 for the campaign. This is a significant amount raised as the branch strives to hit their goal of \$31,000 by March 3rd.

Many of the teens are taking part in this volunteer effort to gain valuable community service experience. The youth are broken into teams of two and are provided with scripts and information on the many valuable programs and services that the YMCA has to offer the community. There is even a challenge amongst the teams to see who can get the most number of pledges and secure the most money.

“This is a great collaboration with the youth of our community. It really is important to show them the value of volunteering,” said Helen Wodka Executive Director of the Lancaster Family YMCA.

Some of the teens had participated in making calls for the campaign in January as well where on that particular evening they were able to raise \$3,300 for the campaign. One student, Larissa Burridge even secured a \$1,000 donation. “I was excited when that pledge happened because I know it will help other kids go to camp and that made me happy,” said Larissa. Alex Murphy her partner in making the calls said “it’s hard to make the ask when some people are loosing their jobs and don’t have a lot of money right now.” But the students press on hoping that the next call will secure valuable funding allowing families who are struggling to be able to benefit from YMCA programming.



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Most of these teens have already taken part in volunteer opportunities through the Lancaster Youth Bureau or through their Leadership Class. One young man who joined the group, 10 year old Dylan Spyres of William Street School, even participates in his Good Citizen Club. When I asked him why he belongs to this group he replied “I like helping charities in the community. It’s fun.”

Another Strong Kids Phone-a-Thon with the Lancaster teens will take place on **February 18th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Federal Credit Union located at 30 Brunswick Rd in Depew.** For more information or to make a pledge please contact Lancaster Branch Executive, Helen Wodka at 716-684-2395.

Funds raised through the annual Strong Kids Campaign provide financial assistance to allow all people, regardless of their ability to pay, the opportunity to benefit from YMCA services such as before and after school child care, summer day and resident camps, youth, teen and family programs and health / wellness programs. Last year, over individuals 19,000 benefited from the dollars raised in the Strong Kids Campaign.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body. Founded locally in 1852, the YMCA is committed to significantly expanding a fiscally sound, service delivery organization which delivers high quality, market driven services to a growing Western New York constituency.

As a dynamic, charitable, organization, YMCA Buffalo Niagara has been able to assist countless youth, families, and senior citizens so that they may benefit from YMCA programming. YMCA Buffalo Niagara serves more than 100,000 people annually through its association of seven branches across Western New York, YMCA resident Camp Weona as well as 40 community based program sites. From fitness to school age child care programs, swimming lessons to camp, there is something for everyone at the YMCA. For more information on all of the programs the YMCA has to offer and our financial assistance program, please contact your local YMCA branch or visit us online at www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org.

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