

# Commonly Asked Questions about YMCA Finances

**How does the YMCA support itself?** The YMCA is not a for profit organization that supports itself through charitable contributions, membership dues and program fees. As a not for profit the YMCA must direct any and all revenue back into the organization.

**Specifically, where does the YMCA's income come from?** Each YMCA is different. Revenue sources for every Y depend on the size of the community it serves, the facility it is housed in and the services it provides. The GLOW YMCA's operational revenue comes from fundraising, gifts and special events, membership dues, collaborative relationships, YMCA based programs, camping services and endowment funds.

**Who controls the YMCA's finances?** The YMCA's Board of Directors, working through the Y's branch finance committees, oversee all aspects of the YMCA's finances. The YMCA's branch boards and senior staff develop an annual budget which is approved by the Association Board. The Association CEO, Finance Director and Branch Directors oversee daily financial transactions and report regularly to volunteers, independent auditors and compliance agencies such as the YMCA of the USA and the United Way.

**Who contributes to the YMCA?** Locally the YMCA receives support from a wide variety of sources with the YMCA's members being the largest groups. Individuals and families also make annual contributions to perpetuate the organization that serves them well. In total dollars the YMCA receives the majority of its charitable support from service organizations and foundations with funds being directed towards a specific YMCA program or need. In addition, the YMCA receives support from its staff, board members and vendors.

**Does the YMCA have any funds in reserve?** The GLOW YMCA is very fortunate to have a number of endowment accounts. Endowment funds are directed by donor designations to be used for very specific purposes in support of the ongoing initiatives, annual operations and new projects. The YMCA actively seeks endowment funds to support the YMCA's local operations, advance programs and assure that YMCA services and benefits can be provided indefinitely.

**What is the YMCA's Endowment Fund used for?** The YMCA endowment fund is designed to provide supplemental revenue for ongoing YMCA operations and to assure that the YMCA does not deny services to anyone because of their inability to pay. Based on donor restrictions, endowment funds can also be used to support special projects in the event of an emergency.

**Can anyone contribute to the endowment fund?** Anyone can contribute to the YMCA's existing endowment fund and or create a separate endowment account in support of a current project or new initiative. Individuals wishing to make major contributions to the YMCA are often directed towards the endowment fund or a capital campaign.

**What financial relationship do the branches of the YMCA have with the YMCAs in neighboring counties?** The GLOW YMCA serves Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties with branches in Batavia, Warsaw and Medina and a residence camp on Silver Lake. These branch operations contribute to and benefit from the Association according to their resources and needs. The branches of the GLOW YMCA find strength in numbers sharing professional staff, volunteer expertise and emerging opportunities across county lines.