

GIFT YOUR GRATITUDE

RAABIA'S STORY

Parents want the best for their kids, but as a single mother sometimes it's tough just to cover basic needs. I struggle because I can't provide important experiences, like swim lessons or ballet classes. It's heartbreaking to watch them sit, disappointed, on the sidelines as their friends take part in these character-building opportunities all kids should have.

I wanted some way to give my kids more, so I looked into the Y. What I found was a safe place where my kids could be themselves and be around all different types of people, no matter their background, race or creed. I found a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, where staff members know my children by name and invest in relationships with them. So, after discovering everything the Y could be to my family, I was beyond disappointed when I realized I still couldn't afford to expose them to such a wonderful atmosphere. But thankfully the YMCA provides scholarships to one-income families like mine and I was able to get help with my membership without sacrificing the basic needs of my family.

"If I can repay a fraction of what the Y and generous donors have given my family, it would be the least I can do."

Team. What's more, she made lifelong friends, developed perseverance, work ethic and acceptance – things I never could have taught her without these experiences or this place.

As a member, I know how important it is to give back to the community. While my funds are tight, I spend time volunteering at the Y to give back. Because if I can repay a fraction of what the Y and generous donors have given my family, it would be the least I can do.

- Raabia H.

