



# A CLOSER LOOK

## OHIO ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

### Introduction

At the YMCA, we're for healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Ohio YMCAs are in 173 diverse communities around the state, and serve over 1.6 million Ohioans, both children and adults. The Ohio Alliance of YMCAs advocates on behalf of these Ys.

Did you know we are the single largest early childhood and after-school provider in the state, and the nation? Ohio YMCAs also teach more kids how to swim than any other institution, which are lessons in safety, healthy living, and self-confidence.

We provide chronic disease testing and education through programs like the Diabetes Prevention Program, currently reimbursed through United Healthcare. The Ohio Alliance of YMCAs, and individual Ys, also are part of the Pioneering Healthier Communities Ohio (PHC Ohio) collaborative. The PHC Ohio mission is to help children and families choose a healthier path by improving physical activity and nutrition in communities and schools.

### Ohio Alliance of YMCAs

The Ohio Alliance of YMCAs is a nonprofit association that represents the 58 corporate YMCAs throughout Ohio. We are a grassroots driven and governed organization that advocates and educates on behalf of the YMCAs and its mission.

We diligently monitor legislative and regulatory issues, as well as educate and advocate to policymakers concerning all of the community services YMCAs provide. The Alliance has been involved in several key issues at the state level that directly impact YMCAs. The Alliance worked with legislators and interested parties on concussion prevention, swimming pool inspection, and early childhood and school age legislation to ensure that YMCAs were protected and supported.

Additionally, the Alliance is continuing the Ohio YMCA Youth in Government program beginning in April 2013. This work fits perfectly with the Alliance's public policy focus. While we respect and honor the service the former Ohio-West Virginia YMCA has provided over the years, we are moving in a positive direction to grow Ohio's YMCA Youth in Government program. Many more students should have the opportunity to learn and grow through the program.

We are your statewide voice, and with that responsibility and in our work we strive to uphold the four core YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

### Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation

The Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation was created to support the great work of the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs, as well as each of the 58 corporate YMCA associations in Ohio. The Foundation also is a nonprofit association that focuses on grant administration for not only statewide YMCA initiatives and programs, but also supports local YMCAs secure and administer grants for community work.

The Foundation initiates, promotes, and sponsors programs that enable YMCAs to provide healthy living and youth development programs to their communities. One spotlight initiative the Foundation leads is Pioneering Healthier Communities Ohio (PHC Ohio). PHC Ohio is a collaborative of diverse statewide partners promoting policy, systems, and environmental change across the state to create fair opportunities for children to access healthy food and physical activity. To learn more, visit [www.phcoho.org](http://www.phcoho.org).

### Governance

Both the Alliance and Alliance Foundation have governing councils, comprised of Ohio YMCA CEOs, YMCA executive staff, and YMCA volunteers. The Alliance and Alliance Foundation also have an executive director, Youth in Government state director, and grant administrator.

### Closing

To learn more about Ohio YMCAs, the legislative issues important to our Ys, and a list of our council members, visit our website at [www.ohioymcas.org](http://www.ohioymcas.org).