

ENSURING EVERYONE CAN BELONG

YMCA Financial Assistance

The YMCA is where community happens. In neighborhoods and towns across King County, your local Y is where people of all ages come together to laugh, learn, exercise, and build their sense of collective purpose and connectedness.

We offer dozens of camping, recreational, and sports programs that help kids grow up strong in spirit, mind, and body. Adults and seniors find acclaimed programs suited just for them, with donor-funded subsidized rates and sliding scales to ensure that Y opportunities are open to all.

Because of your support, in 2015 the Y was able to provide more than \$9.5 million in Financial Assistance to more than 27,000 children and adults throughout King County, so that everyone can have equal access to opportunities to live healthier lives, succeed in school, and contribute to the life and vitality of our community.



SUMMER FUN, A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES: METZE'S STORY

About to enjoy her third summer at YMCA Camp Colman, Metze explains that her camp experience isn't limited to just one week but extends to her life at home as well.

"Now I try to succeed as much as possible in all the work I start," Metze says. "Before it would be super easy to give up on something and not care, but camp taught me that I need to finish things even if I'm only doing it for myself."

An important lesson for a fourteen year old who's faced her own set of challenges. Shortly after she was born, Metze's family moved back to Mexico and didn't return to the US until she was nine.

Adjusting to a new town, school, and language without the comfort of friends and familiar touchpoints was difficult. Little did she know that a donor-supported scholarship and invitation to a week at camp would change everything.

Through her camp experience, Metze has had the opportunity to make connections and discover new things about herself and others.

"People there just accept you no matter what"

-Metze, YMCA Camp Coleman camper and financial assistance recipient.

"People there just accept you no matter what. I never thought I would live for a week with people I didn't know, without technology and around nature. If I hadn't gone to a new place, I wouldn't have known these



Metze's past three years at YMCA Camp Colman gave her confidence, friends, belonging.

She looks forward to going back to camp, and eventually becoming a YMCA camp counselor.

wonderful people even existed."

Her mom, Rocio, has noticed a change in her daughter as well.

"It's like a whole new Metze, before and after going to camp," says Rocio. "It's changed her life and we are so thankful for the all the opportunities at the Y, and for accepting us as part of the community."