



Gen Y Leadership Project Fact Sheet

“Now along come the 76 million members of Generation Y. For these new 20-something workers, the line between work and home doesn’t really exist. They just want to spend their time in meaningful and useful ways, no matter where they are.”

“What Gen Y Really Wants,” Time Magazine, July 5, 2007

Program Purpose

The YWCA is committed to its mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Through this mission, the YWCA has an obligation to grow the next generation of female leaders in central Ohio. The Gen Y Leadership Project (Gen Y) is an initiative designed to recruit, train and empower young women and link their enhanced skills to the needs of the community.

This need has been articulated and confirmed to the Y by young women in many settings. Through the Gen Y program, participants are engaged in career enhancement, goal setting, community service and personal and leadership development. Gen Y is designed to provide the resources and learning opportunities young women need to grow into the future leaders of Central Ohio.

About the YWCA

YWCA Columbus, established in 1886, has supported, housed, fed, nurtured and mentored women and their families. YWCA Columbus touches thousands of lives each year by operating one of the largest family shelters in Central Ohio, improving race relations by facilitating dialogues, providing childcare, youth development and promoting health and fitness. All of the Y’s work is ground in the elementary belief that all people have value and potential and the organization helps ensure that they have full access and opportunity to contribute to the best of their ability.

Why Gen Y?

“There is no consensus over the exact birth dates that define Gen Y, also know by some as echo boomers and millennials. But the broadest definition generally includes more than 70 million Americans born 1977 to 2002. Narrower definitions put Gen Yers as those born from 1978 to 1989.

Under the narrow definition, as they take their first jobs, Gen Y would be the fastest growing segment of the workforce – growing from 14% of the workforce to 21% over the past four years to nearly 32 million workers.”

“Generation Y: They’ve arrive at Work With a New Attitude,” USA Today, November 6, 2005

The Ideal Applicant

The ideal applicant is a woman in her 20’s and at the beginning of her career and leadership journey. She has a desire to be involved in the Columbus community through her profession and community service. She is eager to grow, both personally and professionally, and wants to connect, in a meaningful way, with her peers and seasoned community leaders. She may have attended or graduated from college or other post secondary education, but it is not required to participate in the program.

Program Curriculum and Time Commitment

Between 12 and 16 women will be selected for Class II of the Gen Y Leadership Project. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion with each other, workshop presenters, and Columbus community leaders around a myriad of personal and professional development topics.

This 18-month learning experience will include formal and informal learning opportunities for its participants. Program components will appeal to a variety of learning styles and may include, but not be limited to, personal and professional development, experiential learning, community service projects, fundraising and mentorship.

Meeting Days, Time and Locations

Generally, monthly sessions will occur one weekend day a month for approximately three to four hours. Meeting locations may vary throughout central Ohio. Program participants will be encouraged to organize additional informal sessions or gatherings around topics or events of their choosing.

Gen Yers will also participant in monthly community service projects that members will be responsible for planning and implementing.

Expectations

Gen Y participants are expected to do the following:

- Attend 85% of all scheduled meetings and events (including the mandatory overnight retreat in August)
- Fully participate in all discussions, activities and mentoring
- Plan and implement a large-scale fundraising group project
- Complete a limited number of “homework” assignments
- Be open to new ideas and points of view
- Serve on nonprofits boards or committees upon completion of the program,

Schedule*

August 25, 2009	Opening Reception
August 28-30	Opening Retreat
September 2009 – September 2010	Monthly Sessions
September 2010 – March 2011	Development of a fundraising project
March 2011	Closing Event

(*Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change.)

Cost

Chase, the YWCA and the Women’s Fund of Central Ohio have generously contributed funding for this program, therefore, with the exception of a \$10 application fee, there is no cost to those selected to participate.

A non-refundable, \$10 application fee is a tangible expression of the applicant’s interest in the program. The application fees will be donated to My Sister’s Fund, a fund created to assist the 102 residents of the Griswold building with emergency, no-interest loans in times of crisis.

Application Process

Applicants must mail or hand-deliver a completed application by noon on Friday, June 5th. A completed application packet will include the following:

- Application
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Two letters of reference from non-family members (employer, mentor, spiritual leader, community service organization, etc...)
- \$10 application fee (*checks should be made payable to the YWCA. Please put "Gen Y" in the memo line*)

Gen Y Leadership Project

Attention: Dawn Tyler Lee, Executive Advisor

YWCA

65 South Fourth Street

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Based on the number of applications received, interviews may be needed to further assist in the selection process. Class II of the Gen Y Leadership Project will be notified by July 15.

Questions? Please email questions to Dawn Tyler Lee (dawngeny@yahoo.com) or Autumn Williams (autumngeny@yahoo.com) or leave a message in the Gen Y voicemail box at 614.224.9121 x1208.