

## Faces of the YMCA

“The YMCA is full of opportunities.”

Olivia Anthony

At 14 years of age, Olivia Anthony understands how important the YMCA is in her community. Olivia has been a member since she was born – her mom started bringing her to the YMCA and they participated in the parent and tot swim lessons at a young age. Olivia was exposed to an environment she became familiar with in her young life. Over the years, Olivia participated in different activities in the YMCA. She is a very active youth member in the YMCA and has built a positive profile in the Y community.

To understand Olivia's passion for the YMCA and her development as a YMCA leader, you just need to look at her involvement in the past year. Olivia continued on with her swimming that she started as a young child and started her path to becoming a lifeguard by participating in the bronze medallion course. She also started to volunteer in swim lessons and help teach. She decided to join her friend in the youth basketball league, where even though she had never picked up a basketball, she decided to learn and participate. From her experience in the basketball league, Olivia decided to coach a division I team in the youth soccer league, teaching soccer skills to 6 and 7 year olds. Olivia also participated in the senior leader corps program, where she participated in community fundraising for Strong Kids and the end-of-the-year trip to Camp Wanakita. To wrap up the year, Olivia held a job as a junior camp counsellor at our summer day camp.

Olivia looks back on the YMCA as one that helps build communities, and helps youth have different activities for them to do. One look at Olivia and her participation in the YMCA lets you know, that it is making an impact on her life. In Olivia's words, “We do fundraising and it's to help kids get involved in membership and learn to be a leader for jobs in the future. We learn how to run things, how to work with younger children. The YMCA is full of opportunities.”