



Kentucky YMCA Youth Association

Global Initiatives Fund

As a DIG Innovation Network Y, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association has worked to improve YMCA global impact since 2012. Alongside YMCAs across the U.S., the Kentucky YMCA is helping to lead the YMCA Global Movement for Change.

Global Initiatives Fund

The Kentucky YMCA raises money for the Global Initiatives Fund to support internationally—focused activities. The Kentucky YMCA uses these funds to support international programming, newcomer/immigrant students, non-profits worldwide, and the YMCA Global Movement.

World Alliance

In 2013, The World YMCA Alliance began a program called YMCA Change Agents. World YMCA Change Agents and Y-USA's Emerging Global Leadership Network are leading the Global Movement of the YMCA. Each year, they search for the Youth Voice around the world. The World Council meets every four years. In the summer of 2014, Change Agents from the Kentucky YMCA lead workshops at the YMCA World Council meeting, teaching the world council about the power of Civic Engagement and youth impact.

KUNA

The Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA) provides students from across the Commonwealth with the opportunity to travel the world in just three days. Annually, over 5,000 students research other countries, write and debate UN resolutions, and resolve global as ambassadors of represented countries. This authentic learning experience underscores the importance of global citizenship, connecting Kentucky teens to the broader world.



International Experiences

The Kentucky YMCA supports various International Experiences for Participants, Volunteers, Alumni, and Staff. These experiences not only provide a learning opportunity, but also professional development and personal growth. Through local conferences, international exchanges, participation in the YMCA World Alliance, and International Leadership Opportunities, the Kentucky YMCA connects its community with the wider global network.

International Exchanges

The Kentucky YMCA has participated in International Service Learning Trips since 2012, both travelling abroad and hosting students in the Commonwealth. Through International Exchange Programs, the Kentucky YMCA has sent a service team to Israel and Palestine, and another team to South Africa. Alumni worked hard to help the local communities overseas. Locally, the Kentucky YMCA has hosted groups of teens from Denmark, Colombia and Ecuador in Kentucky. The students explored cultural differences, learned new forms of community service, and discovered peanut butter! The Kentucky YMCA is currently recruiting new alumni and young volunteers to go to Denmark in July 2019, to participate in their Y's annual Wonderful Days event (must be age 18-20).

International Partnerships

The Kentucky YMCA continues to develop partnerships across the globe. WeDay KY, World Affairs Council of KY & Southern IN, and WaterStep are some of the organizations the Kentucky YMCA works with closely. In addition, the Kentucky YMCA has International Partnerships with the YMCA of Denmark and the Cape Town YMCAs in South Africa.

With the Global Initiatives Fund, the Kentucky YMCA is constantly growing and developing new International relationships.