



Kentucky YMCA Youth Association

Global Initiatives Fund

As a Diversity, Inclusion, and Global (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. With the Global Initiatives Fund, the Kentucky YMCA is constantly growing, developing, and supporting new International relationships and fellow YMCAs.

Global Initiatives Fund

Each year, 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 and needs, newcomer/immigrant students, non-profits worldwide, and the YMCA Global Movement. This year, we will be dedicating the Global Initiatives Fund to the San Juan and Ponce YMCAs in Puerto Rico.

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.

KUNA

The Virtual Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA) provides students from across the Commonwealth with the opportunity to travel the world in just two days. Annually, over 6,000 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.



YMCAs of Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has two YMCAs—the San Juan YMCA is a wellness center/gymnasium, and the Ponce YMCA is a pool and general facility. The YMCA of Ponce is stepping up its services—as a school, child care center, and critical community center. They have **tripled** their normal offerings and resources. Because that's what the Y does: it supports its community, no matter what.

The Ponce Y has been damaged by the hurricane and earthquakes. Its staff members have faced multiple hardships and trauma. But they know the way forward is to heal together, and the Kentucky YMCA will be there with them. We are dedicating our 2021 KUNA Global Initiative Fund to support the Ponce YMCA- so it can serve and feed the region's children when no one else can -- and continue helping their community get back on its feet after several devastating blows.

Need-Based Scholarships for Newcomer/Immigrant Students

The Kentucky YMCA does everything it can to ensure all students can attend programs. We offer need-based scholarships to students. Often our newcomer/immigrant students need additional assistance as their families are still settling in the U.S. We use our Global Initiatives Fund to support students new to the United States, offering a safe, welcoming, and educational environment.

International Partnerships

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

The Cape Flats YMCA in Cape Town has been growing and improving over the past few years. As our largest partner, we help to fund their progress with hopes of providing a space for children to go and grow. Sports, afterschool clubs, volunteer opportunities, and more are offered to children in an effort to keep them safe.