



Case For Support

The Hamilton Area YMCA is a non-profit community organization that promotes youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Our organization has been a leader for nearly 70 years in providing childcare, camp, youth programming, swim lessons, senior programming and programs for those with diverse abilities.

The Y has been a pioneer in programming for those living with chronic illness. We tackle chronic illness head on with a suite of Chronic Disease Programs such as Delay the Disease Parkinson's Prevention and our OneStep Multiple Sclerosis Program which has been replicated by Ys throughout New Jersey. Members of our community who have survived cancer have the opportunity to THRIVE with the Y. The THRIVE program is designed to restore both the physical and mental well-being of the warriors among us.

We focus on the well-being of the whole child through programs like ACT obesity prevention encouraging exercise and nutrition. And we champion programs that focus on the emotional and social welfare, teaching conflict resolution, inclusion and social equity through programs like the Kuser Recess Program.

We've made it our mission to sponsor programs like Swimming to Rowing, a unique collaboration with local non-profits and municipalities to provide opportunities for inner city children to teach water safety, swim lessons and rowing at our Y.

We have invested in partnerships with community organizations like the Wilson Center to bring at risk children to our Sawmill Branch for water safety and swim lessons as well as a transformative summer camp experience.

We have made this commitment to strengthen our community by providing these critically needed services with access for all. We've accomplished this by offering them at no cost, low cost or with access to financial aid since our organizations inception. Annually, we provide over \$500,000 to subsidize these programs through donations and operations.

This has been our long lasting commitment to our community for the last seven decades. However, the current pandemic has greatly affected our ability to sustain these programs and our organization.

The administrative transfer of Sawmill Branch would allow us to sustain our organization and continue our mission work which provides critically needed programs for our community.

The site is eligible for Green Acres funding, a governmental entity such as a municipality or a county or a non-profit with open space in their mission could apply to Green Acres for funding to assist in the transfer.

It's the hope of the Hamilton Area YMCA to maintain a presence at the site and continue to provide active and passive recreation for the community through this beautiful natural resource.

For questions please e-mail sawmilltransfer@hamiltonymca.org.