



For Immediate Release

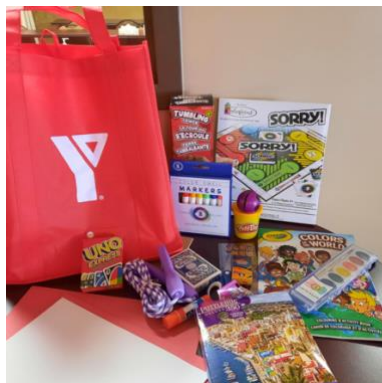
June 1, 2023

ACTIVITY BAGS FILLED WITH WONDER; EYES FILLED WITH TEARS (OF JOY)!

The YMCA of Niagara makes a special delivery to 500 families.

In an effort to bring joy and happiness to families seeking refuge in Niagara Falls hotels, the [YMCA of Niagara](#) has successfully distributed 500 bags filled with FAMILY FUN. This initiative, undertaken by dedicated staff and board members, aimed to provide everyday items and create a sense of wonder for children who have arrived in Canada with limited resources.

Since 2022, approximately 4,000 women, men, and children seeking refuge have been accommodated in Niagara Falls hotels, many arriving with only a suitcase. Recognizing the challenges faced by these families and the scarcity of not only necessities, but things for children to do, the YMCA of Niagara took the initiative to research, purchase, and pack 500 bags filled with items that most of us take for granted.



On Wednesday, April 26th, a YMCA of Niagara team embarked on a road trip to Niagara Falls, carrying two vans brimming with these special bags. The impact of this compassionate gesture was truly heartwarming, as parents' faces lit up with joy upon seeing the happiness it brought to their children. Numerous families have shared their stories of gratitude and animated photos of the moment the bags were opened, with the markers inside immediately igniting an incredible wave of excitement.



"We extend our sincere gratitude to all those involved in swiftly assembling this response," said Deanna D'Elia, General Manager Employment and Immigrant Services at the YMCA of Niagara. "Each act of kindness generates a ripple effect, creating even more positive impact in our community."

The YMCA of Niagara is committed to supporting and enriching the lives of individuals and families in the community. This initiative is a testament to their dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and providing opportunities for growth and joy.

About the [YMCA of Niagara](#)

For over 160 years the YMCA of Niagara has been responding to evolving community need. The [YMCA Stronger Together Annual Support Campaign](#) raises funds to ensure that all children, youth and their families have the opportunity to participate in proven YMCA Programs.

During these times of continual change and uncertainty, children and their families rely on the work we do. Now, more than ever, our community and families need our help. At the YMCA we are committed to finding solutions to meet community need with a focus on ensuring children and youth continue to build resilience and reach their full potential. The YMCA of Niagara continues to grow and adapt to the changing times, creating unique opportunities to allow us to support our community in new ways.

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