



Shine On

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YMCA of Niagara Celebrates \$5,000 Contest Win to Boost Child and Youth Programs

August 2, 2024 — St. Catharines, ON — The YMCA of Niagara is pleased to announce that it has been voted in as one of the five standout charities in a recent community contest sponsored by Tepperman's, winning a prize of \$5,000. This substantial support will significantly bolster the YMCA's mission to ignite the potential in children and youth across the Niagara region, making every community member's contribution genuinely impactful.

"Five thousand dollars add up to a significant impact," said Jen Schmaltz, General Manager of Marketing and Philanthropy for the YMCA of Niagara. This donation supports initiatives like Youth Action, which equips 10-14-year-olds with mentorship and community engagement opportunities in an uplifting environment and promotes values like caring, respect, and inclusiveness. At YMCA Day Camps, kids craft unforgettable memories by engaging in recreational and social activities. Aquatics programs are not just fun—they're crucial, teaching vital swimming skills, friendship, and confidence in the water. "We know that this type of impact on children and youth not only makes a mark but has a ripple effect on the entire family," adds Jen.

The YMCA of Niagara is committed to ensuring that all children can experience the benefits of its programs, regardless of financial barriers. One in five kids in YMCA programs receive financial assistance to participate.

Community members had the opportunity to make a real difference by casting their votes online to propel the YMCA into the top five and help them secure the \$5,000 prize in support of children and youth in Niagara. The voting ran from May 3 until July 12, and the winners were in attendance today to celebrate Tepperman's grand opening of their new store at 1399 Louth Street, St. Catharines. Tepperman's is a family-owned home furnishings store renowned for its community involvement and support for local initiatives.

"Community partners like Tepperman's play a vital role in driving our mission forward," said Christian Wulff, CEO of the YMCA of Niagara. "We are immensely grateful for their support, which allows us to reach more families and create lasting change."

Alongside the YMCA of Niagara, four other lucky charities were also winners in this contest. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to:

- [Community Crew](#)
- [Gillian's Place](#)
- [Niagara Children's Centre](#)
- [Community Care](#)

We are deeply grateful to Tepperman's for selecting us to participate in this incredible initiative. Our warmest thanks go out to everyone who voted for the YMCA of Niagara and helped us secure this wonderful support. Your votes have made a significant difference, and we are excited to continue serving the community with enhanced resources and opportunities.

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About the YMCA of Niagara

The YMCA of Niagara is a charitable organization dedicated to building healthy communities by nurturing the potential of children, youth, and families, promoting healthy living, and fostering social responsibility. With a focus on inclusivity, the YMCA offers a wide range of programs and services to empower individuals and create a positive impact on the Niagara region. To learn more, visit www.ymcaofniagara.org.