



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WATER, WITH A SPLASH OF CONFIDENCE

4th Grade Swim Report
YMCA OF GREATER FLINT



4th GRADE SWIM

STOPPING THE EPIDEMIC OF ACCIDENTAL DROWNING

The goal of 4th Grade Swim is to reduce and eliminate drowning deaths through water safety awareness and education. It is an unfortunate truth that drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for youth. Through a unique collaboration with the Flint Community Schools, and financial assistance from the Ruth Mott Foundation the YMCA of Greater Flint is leading the charge in reversing this sad statistic.

This program is designed to give every 4th grade student in the city of Flint swim lessons for 7 weeks. The children are bussed to and from the YMCA during their regular school day. Their lessons consist of basic swimming and rescue techniques. Using the existing model of our own Y Swim Lessons Program, the instruction these students receive gives them the necessary skills to save themselves as well as the knowledge to assist and save another person should they witness an aquatic emergency. At the end of the year and before the start of summer, an aquatics instructor revisits the students to review what they have learned and give all the students a swimsuit. All of this is provided at **NO COST** to the school.

The need for such a program in the Flint Community is reflected in the alarming statistics that demonstrate the risk children face when they are in or around the water. According to the Redwoods Group, of 151 swimming deaths in Michigan between 2006 and 2012, 43% of

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those victims were between the ages of 1 and 10. Further concerning are the statistics regarding race or ethnicity and drowning. African-American children between the ages of 5 and 19 are 5.5 times more likely to drown than their Caucasian peers. In response to these numbers, the YMCA of Greater Flint sees an opportunity to fulfill a dire need for the community of Flint and combat the danger of accidental drowning.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Thank you for teaching me how to float on my back and for teaching me to swim on my back and for helping me to save people's lives. I will try to save people's lives. - Talia

Thank you for teaching me how to swim because at first I was scared, I didn't want you to let me go. But now I know how to swim and float. - Ca'mya

Thanks for helping me swim. Now I know how to swim all the way. You helped me swim on my tummy. I'm a better swimmer now because of you. - Nanyah

Being a swim teacher is hard you have an important job. When I grow up I want to be just like you; a swim teacher, lifeguard great swimmer. - Shakala



WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

Swim Strokes

- Front crawl
- Backstroke
- Elementary backstroke

Water Safety

- The safe way to enter the pool
- The safe way to jump into the pool
- How to call out for help when someone is in trouble and what do you do?
- Lifejackets and boating safety
- What are lifejackets and why do we wear them?
- What to do and not to do in a boat?



YMCA of Greater Flint is a non-profit organization in the heart of Flint serving Genesee County. Programs like 4th Grade Swim are made possible because of generous donors to our Partner With Youth Campaign. Please donate today to help the Y continue this important program by visiting our website www.flintymca.org or call Pam Bailey at 810.232.9622.

BY THE NUMBERS

1 in 5

people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger

80%

of people who die from drowning are male

African American children ages 5-19 drown in swimming pools at rates

5.5

times higher than those of whites

535

number of students who learned to swim in 2013-14 because of the 4th Grade Swim program



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