



YMCA of South Hampton Roads

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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YMCA Continues to Adapt to Changing Community Needs, Even in Tough Economy

Norfolk – The uncertain economy has put pressure on everyone, and many Americans face unwelcome choices as they balance conflicting financial and personal demands. Which is why now, more than ever, it is important to focus on things we can control – our health and well-being, our family and community.

That is exactly the vision the staff at the Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA live. In Phase II of an extensive renovation, the downtown Norfolk center has been converted from a traditional men's club into a community family center. But the floor plan isn't the only thing changing – lives are being transformed too.

"When times get tough the YMCA is there, it's a place of hope and change. We value what our members bring to the Y as much as we value what the Y can do for them and the community," said Ed Lee, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA.

For more than 160 years, YMCAs have supported families and individuals in good times and during some of the most challenging periods in our nation's history. The YMCA has been a part of this community since 1885. Although smart fiscal management helps, that staying power comes from the Y's connection to the community and its ability to adapt to the region's changing needs.

YMCAs unite men, women and children of all ages, faiths, backgrounds, abilities and income levels. Financial aid, made possible by private and public donations as well as YMCA members through We Build People, our Annual Giving campaign, is available to make YMCA programs and services available to those facing tough situations.

"We are proud of our rich tradition of reaching, serving and including all from our community and beyond. It's tough times like these that bring communities and families together," said Chuck Harris, YMCA of South Hampton Roads President and CEO.

The pattern of change will continue at the YMCA in the coming months with the addition of a Teen Center at the Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA, expansion and renovation at the Great Bridge/Hickory Family YMCA and the construction of regional day camp facilities throughout South Hampton Roads.

For more information about the YMCA, its programs and locations call 962-5555 or visit www.ymcashr.org.

The YMCA of South Hampton Roads is a nonprofit, community-based health and human services organization that serves over 200,000 children and families each year. More than 17% of those families receive financial assistance through the Open Doors program, helping them achieve their full potential in spirit, mind and body. The YMCA's doors are open to people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and incomes.

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