
WITH *Your* HELP,
We Are Going To Have
A
Y. M. C. A.
IN EDWARDSVILLE



"Youth today, as in every age, dreams of 'tomorrow' . . . of the day when he can take his place in the world of affairs. But we adults hold the key to youth's future. Upon us rests the responsibility of providing the environment, training and opportunity which will translate his dreams into reality.

"Never before has American youth faced more difficult problems, greater responsibilities, and larger opportunities for Christian service. And never before has youth more desperately needed the balanced growth in spirit, mind and body symbolized by the 'Y' triangle than in today's world."

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There has been for some time a developing sentiment for the establishment of a Y.M.C.A. in Edwardsville. It is the considered opinion of many of your neighbors that a Y.M.C.A. program should become a reality. Therefore, a group of interested citizens has organized the Edwardsville Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors. It is their judgment that a Y.M.C.A. program be operated for the present without a building (but using available facilities) with a trained staff and the assistance of voluntary committees and leaders to promote and develop a program for the youth and the young adults of Edwardsville.

The Board of Directors are asking that you join with them in financing a budget for one year to sustain such a program. Very shortly you will be contacted by members of a volunteer committee, or by mail, to solicit your support for this project.

Meanwhile, certain specific questions regarding the Y.M.C.A. may need to be answered. Those questions are hereby stated and answered for your information.

1. What Is the Y.M.C.A.?

"The Young Men's Christian Association we regard as being, in its essential genius, a worldwide fellowship of men and boys, united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of developing Christian personality and building a Christian society."

2. Is There a Place for the Y.M.C.A. in Edwardsville?

Yes. A careful survey and comments by many citizens showed that in addition to the fine organizations now active, there was opportunity for more program with teen age boys and girls and with young men and women, many of whom are war veterans.

3. Who Will Operate This Y.M.C.A.?

Responsible citizens of Edwardsville who will employ a trained secretary to promote and guide the program.

4. Will There Be Any Duplication of Program or Competition With Any Other Youth Agencies?

The Y.M.C.A. will supplement existing organizations. National studies reveal that a surprising number of people in any community are not active in existing organizations. The study made in this area showed this to be true in Edwardsville.

5. What Are Some of the Y.M.C.A. Activities?

Some of the many activities include program for youth and young adults such as Indian Guides, Gra-Y, Hi-Y, Tri-Hi-Y, athletics, conferences, joint meetings, forums, leadership training classes, co-ed activities.

6. Will Girls Participate in the Y.M.C.A. Program?

Yes, many Y.M.C.A.'s now have successful programs for girls.

7. Will a Y.M.C.A. Operating Without a Building Be Successful?

Many of the more than 1,500 Y.M.C.A.'s in the country do not have buildings—for example, the Grand Crossing, and South Shore Departments in Chicago, E. St. Louis and Macomb.

8. Will There Be Any Membership Fees?

This will be determined by the Board of Directors. It is advisable that a member share in some small measure toward the defraying of the operating costs.

9. Will the Local Y.M.C.A. Be a Member of the State and National Y.M.C.A. Organizations?

Yes, it will be affiliated with the State and National organizations, but at the same time an autonomous unit, determining its own policies, program and financial needs.

10. Is the Y.M.C.A. Non-Sectarian in Its Program?

Yes, it is founded on the belief in Christian character and the development of Christian personality through its program and leadership.

11. How Much Money Will Be Needed for the First Year's Operation?

Nine thousand dollars. This will maintain professional staff, headquarters, stenographer, program needs and other incidental expenses.

12. What Can I Do to Help Promote the Y.M.C.A. in Edwardsville?

You can contribute to the operating fund for the maintenance of the first year's operating cost. You can also volunteer to work as a leader in one of the many youth groups that will be promoted by the Y.M.C.A. staff.

13. What is the Eventual Goal of the Edwardsville Y.M.C.A.?

As soon as it is proven that a successful Y.M.C.A. can be operated in Edwardsville, it is hoped that the citizens will consider constructing a permanent Y.M.C.A. building. Such a building should contain a gymnasium, swimming pool, club rooms, and other space for the enjoyment and service of the people.

For further information, please contact any Board member.

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