



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

THE FACTS:

58% of students in Pickens County and 49% of students in Northern Anderson County live in poverty.

1/3 of children in Anderson County are living in a single parent home. Research shows that children from low-income households make up nearly 75% of the population reading below the 25th percentile. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental childhood death, children in poverty are less likely to participate in swim lessons. **There are 14,300 youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade in the Y's service area who statistically have unfortunate potential for at risk behaviors and achievement gaps.**

LEADERS IN YOUTH PROGRAMMING:

Community indicators and statistics have driven Y staff and board members to work with local school districts and the United Way to develop award winning programmatic solutions to help its youth learn, grow and thrive. Addressing local needs by caring for children in crisis situations through the **Y Mentor** program and partnering in a solution to raise below grade level reading scores through **Camp iRock**, are two programs the Y is proud to provide the youth in the community. Additionally, the Y has grown its **2nd Grade swim lesson program**, enabling children to gain life changing skills and learn to swim by breaking down transportation, and cultural barriers.

Total children served in the Y's Keystone Youth programs:

345 Y Mentor Program

550 Y 2nd Grade Swim Program

335 Y Summer Camp iRock (specialty literacy program in partnership with United Way)

Making a Difference: Moving the Needle: Our partnership with Clemson University's Youth Leadership Department has enabled us to track pre and post surveys as well as school reading level scores to provide positive outcome measurements for our keystone youth programs.

Y Mentor: More than 5,223 volunteer hours were logged in 2019 from 345 adult professional role model Mentors in the community spending 30 minutes per week mentoring and speaking into the lives of these vulnerable youth. Through surveys, program outcomes track the success of this important program and the trajectories of children's lives are being changed.

Y Mentor outcomes from the 2018-2019 school year

- 85% maintained a positive view of self or increased sense of self confidence (up from 70% in 2018)
- 85% maintained or improved a positive attitude towards school (up from 75% in 2018)
- 85% had an increase in positive character values (up from 50% in 2018)
- 99% had a positive adult to go to for support (up from 96% in 2018)

2nd Grade Swim Lessons: The Y currently provides FREE swim lessons to six elementary schools and is working to expand the program to all elementary schools in Pickens and Northern Anderson counties. Children are transported from school for 8 weeks of swim instruction at the Y.

2nd Grade swim outcomes:

- 100% learned life saving water safety skills
- 100% improved swimming level competence
- 90% progressed to swimming across the pool
- 100% of teachers reported positive class experiences including, improved self esteem.

Why Camp iRock? In 2016 49.2% of Pickens County 3rd graders tested below grade level. In partnership with the School District and Pickens County United Way, the community has a bold goal of ensuring that at least 70% of Pickens County 3rd graders will read at grade level by 2025. In partnership with the Anderson County United Way, in 2019 the program was replicated in Anderson School District 1. Moving forward all Anderson County School Districts are working to provide Camp iRock during the summer.

Camp iRock 2018-2019 outcomes:

- Students attending camp iRock increased reading scores by 78%
- 3rd Grade reading levels in Pickens county have increased 20% since 2017.