

## Our Facilities

The YMCA Center for Achievement is located within the Virginia Edwards Community Center. This stunning facility is centrally located in the heart of Benton Harbor. In partnership with the Benton Harbor Housing Commission, the YMCA shares space with community offices and local community leaders. A very unique set-up, that allows our youth to see the world of work first hand as they build there leadership skills.

This state of the art facility offers such amenities as: 22 computer units with integrated network access, a 150 seat community theater room, a full gymnasium, a fully equipped fitness center, state of the art recording studio, art classroom and outdoor playground.

*The YMCA Center for Achievement is truly the place to be after school for Benton Harbor youth.*

## Membership

The YMCA Center for Achievement is free to any child 1st – 12th grade and **no** YMCA membership is needed. We offer a great environment for youth to hang out in, that is both safe and fun. If your child is interested in joining The YMCA Center for Achievement, you will need to come in and fill out a short registration form that includes contact information

## Center for Achievement

### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

\*Hours may vary in the summer

## Volunteers

YMCAs are volunteer founded, volunteer based, and volunteer led. They are at the heart of every YMCA, and that's why YMCAs are at the heart of community life in more than 10,000 communities nationwide. Here at the YMCA Center for Achievement, volunteers have opportunities in sports, academics, and enrichment programs, to name a few.

Please donate some time and make a difference!

*your community*  
**your ymca**  
**your story**



## CENTER FOR ACHIEVEMENT

## 2011-2012 School Year Programs



Building tomorrow's  
leaders today!

Located at the Virginia Edwards Center  
721 Nate Wells Sr. Drive  
Benton Harbor, MI 49023  
269-925-2540

### Benton Harbor



# Center for Achievement

In response to greater serve the needs of youth in the Benton Harbor Community, the Benton Harbor – St. Joseph YMCA Family Center partnered with the Benton Harbor Housing Commission to create the YMCA Center for Achievement.

The YMCA Center for Achievement is a unique collaboration between the community and the YMCA. Our goal is simple; to provide youth with an inventory of skills and positive experiences that will help promote positive self-development.

The Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA Family Center is dedicated and committed to serving youth of Benton Harbor through positive alternatives to negative behavior and influences. Programs emphasize role models to enhance self-worth and self-esteem, while providing a safe environment to create healthy behaviors.

Here at the YMCA, we are convinced that character counts, so we build our staff, programs, and practices on the core values of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility. We believe our mission and values work to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

*“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”*

~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## Our Program Philosophy

The YMCA cares about youth. The YMCA Center for Achievement cultivates youth leaders. The Center for Achievement creates opportunities for youth to contribute to their community.

It is our belief that with the right support and opportunity youth can soar beyond their dreams.

The Center for Achievement partners with families, schools, businesses, and the entire community to help provide brighter futures for young people. The YMCA Center for Achievement gives youth a safe place to call their own and a chance to connect with positive role models and adults who care about them. Youth programs include: youth development activities, leadership groups, community service projects, exposure to diverse career options, sports, strength-training, and fun recreational events.

## Program Areas

### Education & Lifestyle Development

These programs are centered on improving the success of the student in school and life. Academic enhancements are offered throughout the school year to help students perform better in the classroom environment. Lifestyle training allows students to identify future plans and develop avenues on how to get there, allowing them to truly *plan their life by design*.

### Computer Lab

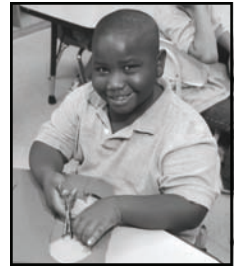
Computers are available for kids during designated hours for homework, games and educational research. Youth will also learn a wide range of subjects in computers and technology.

## Leadership Development

Character counts at the YMCA. Youth will participate in a series of workshops focused on helping them develop self-identity, self-worth and true leadership abilities. They can then apply these concepts in their everyday life to help themselves, and their community.

## Arts

Krasl Art Center partners with the YMCA to help students achieve increased self esteem, improved communication skills, a greater sense of accomplishment and a better attitude toward school through hands-on art activities.



## Fitness

The Youth Fitness Center is open to youth members 13-17. The 14- station Nautilus circuit is ideal for anyone who wants a total body workout. A staff member will be available to give orientations to youth and their families. Every child must go through an orientation with a staff member. Once completed, youth members may use the facility with an adult.

## Our Staff

YMCA's build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. So naturally, Y's seek employees who exhibit the values behind the mission— (caring, honesty, respect, faith and responsibility), employees who enjoy people and want to make a difference. The Center for Achievement staff are dedicated to the success and support of our youth helping them become the leaders of tomorrow.

