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## YMCA SPLASH Offers More Than Water Safety

**“SPLASH has been such a blessing to our school and life changing for two of our students who participated.”**  
– Mrs. D. (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher)

Did you know that drowning is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in children ages 5-14? What’s even more chilling is that 60% of kids who drown are within 10 feet of safety. All they needed to know was a few skills and they could’ve survived.

The Y is committed to keeping kids safe in and around the water. One of the ways we do this is through our SPLASH initiative. SPLASH is the Y’s drowning prevention & water safety program that we offer as a FREE community service to all area 2<sup>nd</sup> graders through their schools.

This year, through SPLASH, the Y has taught life-saving skills to more than 350 kids in our area. Many of these participants had no prior swimming skills.

This program recently touched the lives of two area brothers who lost their mom to a terminal illness.

According to their teacher, these happy-go-lucky boys slipped into a deep depression and withdrew socially and emotionally. She said YMCA Splash has been a godsend for them—it was the first time in many weeks that she saw them smile, laugh, and interact with their peers.

“We cannot believe that Y offers this incredible program as a free community service. Thank you for teaching our students how to swim, and for giving two of our boys the support to heal their deep emotional wounds. We’ll forever be grateful to the YMCA.”



*This year, more than 350 kids will learn water safety skills in YMCA SPLASH, the Y’s drowning prevention offered as a FREE community service to all area 2<sup>nd</sup> graders through their schools.*