

Heather's Y Story

When Heather first volunteered through youth sports at the Y, it was a simple way to stay connected with her kids. What started on the sidelines with coaching youth sports and cheering from the bench quickly became something deeper. She discovered the Y wasn't just a place to play. It was a way to build community, one connection at a time.

Her commitment to community was recognized when Heather was named Philanthropy Volunteer of the Year for the Marysville Y in 2025, a reflection of the heart she brings to every game, fundraiser, and moment of mentorship.

"I wanted a way to give back to the community in a different capacity," Heather says. "Volunteering at the Y allows me to reach out to other parts of our community and help provide opportunities and experiences for families outside of my work environment."

One memory that stands out is of a four-year-old boy, who began the soccer season shy and unsure. By the final whistle, he was confident and beaming. Months later, his mother reached out to thank Heather for unlocking his love of the game. "It was very fulfilling," she shares. "We were just making it up as we went to keep them on the task of chasing the ball!"

Over the past decade, Heather has coached soccer, basketball, volleyball, and t-ball. She's been a steady presence with fundraising for the community campaign through washing cars, running activities, and encouraging others to get involved. Every action, no matter how small, is part of something bigger.

"Helping out around the community takes time and effort but comes back ten-fold in a place where people feel safe to be themselves, excited to try new things, and willing to expand their reach to help others," Heather says.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Y, visit ymca-snoco.org/volunteer.