"EV" Conley's Y Story

Modified from "The First 100 Years" by Lawrence E. O'Donnell

In 1957, Everett "EV" Conley joined the Everett Y as assistant physical director. A year later, he was running the department.

Conley spent his days working with the Y's young people, and he quickly became someone they looked up to. Fred Safstrom was one of those kids. Decades later, in 2000, Safstrom became chair of the YCMA of Snohomish County board of trustees. At a Y award ceremony in the summer of 2001, he looked back on his childhood at the Y and the man who shaped it.

"'EV' Conley was my hero – my idol," Safstrom said. "I thought if I could grow up to be like him that would be about the greatest thing that could happen."

As Snohomish County grew, so did the Y. In spring 1969, the Everett Y expanded north with outreach programs at a new Marysville YMCA. Conley was chosen to lead it, making him instrumental in bringing the Y to a growing community.