



Photo by LuAnn Warner-Prokos

DANIEL HUCK

Chair of the DeVos-Blum Family
YMCA Board

“ The Y is Community ”

WHERE IN THE Y...?

New to South Florida in 2008, I searched for a strong community to belong to and was fortunate enough to find the Boynton YMCA. I began coaching youth basketball as a volunteer, and to date have proudly taught more than 350 kids. In 2015, I joined the DeVos-Blum Family Y Board of Directors and became involved in leading board activities and their Togetherhood volunteer program.

When Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, I felt compelled to help YMCAs on the island. As an owner of a few Five Guys in the local area, I coordinated a fundraiser to assist these Ys and in total, our participating locations successfully raised \$18k.

A couple years later, I visited a YMCA in San Juan who had received our funds and was shocked to learn that while the community and staff had continued to work tirelessly making facility repairs, there was still so much to do. Even their outdoor airnasium remained destroyed, which at one time hosted programs for over 500 participants. Nonetheless, a highlight of my visit was watching their youth basketball program. These kids played hard and worked together, all while playing in a gym with no air conditioner...in June...in Puerto Rico.

Inspired by what I saw, I asked the Sports Director if our Y could bring a youth group to play someday. This trip was going to be more than a friendly game of basketball, my goal was to educate our kids about the culture and let them witness how these kids dealt with adversity years after the destructive hurricane.

Unfortunately, COVID derailed our plans, but with passion and support of Y staff we are back on track in putting this plan into motion. It's nice to see dreams come to reality.

So why am I passionate about the YMCA? Because this organization can be found in every community all over the world, making a lasting and positive impact on individuals who need it most.

For more information about the YMCA, visit: YMCASPBC.ORG