



# Voices of the Community The Rye Y Story Project

## FAQs for Interviewers

### **Q. What is the Rye Y Story Project?**

- A.** The Story Project is the Y's effort to record the personal stories of our members, volunteers and staff. We want to know about the back stories that brought them to the Y and the successes and challenges encountered on the road to healthy living.

Modeled loosely on StoryCorps, a national non-profit oral history project, The Rye Y Story Project" was launched to further the sense of community that already exists at the Y. Last year, we collected 24 stories over the course of two days. The stories have been used in an exhibit, in fundraising and marketing documents and in our Annual Report.

### **Q. When is the Story Project being held this year?**

- A.** The Rye Y Story Project is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 12- Thursday, November 14. The booth will be staffed for 2-3 hours each in the morning, afternoon and early evening of each day. (Scheduled to be determined.)

### **Q. How does it work?**

- A.** Members, staff and volunteers will stop by the Story "booth" in the lobby and tell their story to a staff or volunteer interviewer. Interviews usually take between 10 and 20 minutes.

### **Q. What are the interviewer responsibilities?**

- A.** The interviewer will be expected to encourage members who are entering the building or hanging out in the lobby to "enter the booth" and tell their story; and listen to the person's story and ask key questions, while taking notes. Interviewers will also be asked to take a photo of the person and write the story up within a week of the interview. Interviewers are asked to commit to a minimum of two 1-hour shifts over the course of the three days.

### **Q. What preparation can I expect?**

- A.** There will be a brief (20 minute) meeting for interviewers the week before the Story Project to ensure that everyone understands the procedures and is comfortable with interviewing. Interviewers will also be given an Interviewing Tips sheet.

### **Q. Why should I participate?**

- A.** It's fun, it's rewarding and it furthers the mission of the Y.