135 COMMUNITY TEAM
MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

SEPTEMBER 2026:
Belonging & the Y

25 Team Members Weighed In | **96%** Rated Their Visit Very Good or Excellent | **68%** Shared Their Ask Experience With Others

WHAT THE TEAM REVIEWED

In September, the 135 Community Team took an honest look at what it feels like to walk into the Janesville Y. Team members told us whether they feel welcome and safe there, what has made it harder to show up and what makes a space feel open to everyone. They also shared program ideas and what the Y could offer downtown employers and neighbors.

THREE MAIN FINDINGS

1 Belonging Starts at the Front Door
Twenty-two of 25 team members said Y staff add to their sense of belonging. When asked to describe a moment when they felt they belonged, 14 said they felt welcomed at the door or front desk. A simple hello is doing a lot of work.

2 Finding Your Way Is the Biggest Barrier
Thirteen of 25 said getting around the Janesville Y is hard, from winding hallways to signs that only make sense once you know the building. That includes longtime members, not just newcomers. Natural light and comfortable seating topped the list of what makes a space feel welcoming.

3 More People Want a Way In
Working adults asked for more classes and access after 6 p.m. Others named teens and tweens, older adults, caregivers and people with disabilities as groups they'd like the Y to reach. On cost, five asked for clearer information about the financial assistance the Y already offers.

BELONGING AT A GLANCE

Team members who agree or strongly agree:

- I feel safe being who I am at the Y (96%)
- Y staff contribute to my sense of belonging (88%)
- I feel like I belong at the Janesville Y (80%)
- When I think of downtown Janesville, I think of the Y (64%)
- I see the Janesville Y as a community hub today (60%)



WHAT COMES NEXT

The Community Team will continue meeting through the end of 2026, and each month its feedback goes to the 135 Project Teams, who shape recommendations to the board. All of it feeds a plan for the Y's 135th anniversary in 2027 that weighs community voices, organizational priorities and costs.

We encourage you to share your 135 ask experiences through everyday conversations. JOIN ANYTIME. Invite your friends, family, and coworkers to learn more: ymcanrc.org/135years.