Why I serve on the YWCA Board of Directors...

**Sarah Richards**

“When I moved back to Mankato in 2008, the executive director of the YWCA contacted me and asked if I would be willing to serve on their board. I started to learn more about the YWCA’s mission and what the programs were, and it really intrigued me. It has been fun as well as challenging because the organization has really been changing and evolving. Learning about the programs and listening to the [program participants] has been a great learning experience. I think the YWCA touches a large part of our community that is underserved and not recognized as having a tremendous influence on our community. And if you touch one life, you touch a hundred others.” - Sarah Richards

**Jenn Faust**

“I serve on the YWCA board because I believe the true meaning of success is by creating a life with meaning through service. I truly feels that the greatest achievements in life are those that benefit others. - Jenn Faust

**Heather Thielges**

“I initially sought a board position with the YWCA because as an alumna of their Women’s Leadership Program, I have reaped the benefits of the YWCA’s efforts in elevating the status of women in our community. I have witnessed first-hand the impact this program has on its participants, their businesses/organizations, family, and community and wanted to perpetuate that impact. I stay involved and remain passionate about the YWCA’s mission and programs because my two sons may likely be influenced by a girl at some point in their future and my hope is that influence will be positive. The mission and programs of the YWCA are and will continue to be instrumental in the development of girls and young women, one of which could quite possibly be my daughter-in-law someday.” - Heather Thielges

**Kelly Peterson**

“As a women in business and a mother of a 14 year old daughter, the YWCA mission resonates with me. I enjoy giving back to the community I grew up in and seeing the impact the YWCA programs have on so many people.” - Kelly Peterson

**Gordy Graham**

“I work in a male dominated profession/industry and I recognize that still (unbelievably) in 2015 there is gender discrimination. I have 6 granddaughters who have the right and should have the opportunities to soar without limitations. The Board at our YWCA is a collection of some of the brightest, most talented, nutritious and hardworking people I have ever met- and most of them are women. Rock on!” - Gordy Graham

**Gretchen Taylor**

“Being a member of the Mankato YWCA Board is a highly satisfying experience. Our board and outstanding staff not only identify problems which face women and girls in our community, but establish programs to help solve them. These programs reach a broad spectrum of needs and ages and are constantly revised and updated to keep up with changing needs.” - Gretchen Taylor