



TAYLOR FAMILY YMCA

BRANCH MANAGER

JOSEPH RUSSELL



I guess I never thought of it as my Y story. As a child or young adult, I never had any dealings with the Y. I got both my knees totally replaced and my doctor said I need to find a pool to workout my new bought and paid-for joints. Luckily, there was a Y close to my house, so I went in and there was a big sign that said, "Hiring Now Part-Time," with a free membership. I immediately jumped on it and applied. I was told I was overqualified, and I said the only reason I wanted the job was for the free membership. So, I was hired in January of 2013.

I came to the Y for one reason and stayed for something else. I had always worked for profit organizations, and I thought I knew what giving back was. I was sadly mistaken, because giving back is with no expectation of anything in return. Working at the Y has benefited me personally by allowing me to help make a difference in the community. It has helped my family tremendously by giving my children an education in teamwork, giving back and self-esteem. I'm a foster parent and the Y gives every child through my home summer camp, daycare, and swim lessons. The Y doesn't only touch the community, but the employee's lives as well.