



Shopping Dates (5:30-8:30 p.m.)*

- Bryan YMCA Aug 11, 12, 13
- Hayes-Taylor YMCA Aug 14
- Ragsdale YMCA Aug 13, 18
- Reidsville YMCA Aug 17, 18, 20
- Spears YMCA Aug 18, 19, 20
- Stoney Creek YMCA Aug 12

*Check with your YMCA branch to make sure dates and times have not changed.

Special day trips can be arranged for organizations.

Darlene C. Smith, Senior Community Affairs Specialist at American Express, says:

I continue to get great feedback from our employees regarding the Bright Beginnings volunteer activity.

Letitia C. Rogers of American Express says:

Bright Beginnings is one of the absolute best volunteer activities that I have ever participated in and one of the most rewarding things that I've ever done! The YMCA staff was so grateful we were there and especially happy about the grant money that Amex provided.

Remember starting school with new clothes and supplies you picked out yourself? Some kids can't. Some start school without basic supplies. Too often, kids lack the confidence these things can bring. They need your help for a Bright Beginning this school year.

Bright Beginnings is a YMCA program providing back-to-school clothes and supplies to deserving children. Each child is paired with a special adult volunteer. Together, they board a Y bus, which takes them to enjoy a shopping trip. We plan to help more than 500 children this year.

We need more than 500 volunteers to help children shop. YMCA staff makes shopping trips easy for volunteers. Most trips are from 5:30-8:30 on a weekday evening, and special day trips can be arranged for your organization. Last year, American Express provided funding and volunteers for an entire group of kids.

The Y welcomes individuals, companies, churches, and other volunteer groups to go shopping. Volunteers meet their child buddy at the YMCA and board the bus to go shopping as a group.



Volunteer Interest Sheet*

Yes! I want to help Bright Beginnings:

_____ As an organization

_____ As an Individual

_____ Volunteer as a shopping buddy for a 3-hour trip in August
_____ Which YMCA? _____ Which Date?

_____ Recruit others to be shopping buddies (from my company, church or civic organizations, family, friends)

_____ Donate \$_____ (\$150 outfits a child)
(any amount is graciously accepted!)

_____ First Name _____ Last Name

_____ Name of Organization Volunteering _____ My Title in Organization

_____ Work phone _____ Home phone _____ Mobile

_____ Email address

Return this form to:
Nancy Calkins, YMCA of Greensboro
620 Green Valley Rd, Ste 210
Greensboro, NC 27408
Fax: 336-854-8412
nancy.calkins@ymcagreensboro.org
for information call 336-854-8413 x 107



YMCA of Greensboro

**We build strong kids,
strong families,
and strong communities.**

(*Please Note: All volunteers must complete another "Volunteer Application" in advance of the trip and show photo ID on the shopping day.)



YMCA of Greensboro

Testimonials

From Parent:

To YMCA Staff, Bright Beginnings
Volunteers and donors:

Thank you very much
for Bright Beginnings. This
was the only way my
child would have a new
coat and shoes for school. He
did not want to go to school
but this experience made
him excited about school.
Your program gave us
everything he needed to start
school and he is very happy
now.

Thank you to
Everyone

From Child:

Hi, my name is Miles.
Thank you for letting me
go on the shopping spree.
I was able to get nice
clothes and school supplies.
I am now ready to go to
school. Once again Thank
you very much.

From Volunteer:

*What a wonderful
experience. It was such a
blessing to be able to
make a difference in a
child's life and know that
he'll start school with the
things he needs to be
successful. It was a fun
evening, and I would
highly recommend anyone
getting involved.*

-Holly Holder

*I would tell anyone I
could to volunteer for
bright Beginnings. It is
an outstanding program
and a very rewarding
experience.*

-Elaine Morehead-Hughes

Bright Beginnings started at the Richmond, VA YMCA. During a Bright Beginnings shopping trip in Richmond, VA, one boy asked his volunteer, a police officer, "Who is paying for all of these clothes and supplies?" "You are," replied Officer Banks. "You can pay us back for these nice clothes and supplies by going to school every day and working hard." At the end of the first nine-week session, every one of the ten children who shopped with Officer Banks received a ribbon for perfect attendance, and several had made the honor roll.