

YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

Executive Summary

Community Partner

Jennifer Bouchard

Todd Brinkman

Jim Needles

Deborah Pricener

Student Development Team

Jake Bittner

Eric Chow

Abdusamed Sherif

Glen Wise

Background

The YMCA is the leading nonprofit committed to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility in the nation. The YMCA of the Greater Pittsburgh Area serves more than 90,000 individuals every year with programs including after-school care and childcare, outdoor camping, community outreach, sports, health and fitness, youth counseling and senior assistance.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

The YMCA deals with the difficulties that come with logging and managing data by pen and paper. Being able to log this information with tablets or phones, the fragility of paper wouldn't need to be worried about. Whether misplaced or tardy, the YMCA ends up missing grant funding without the proper reporting. Not having the pressure of misplacing these papers can be hugely beneficial and reduce major inefficiencies in this manual form of "data transfer."

Project Vision

Our vision is to provide YMCA staff members and volunteers a comprehensive attendance tracking system that provides an intuitive interface for entering children's attendance. This system will allow members of YMCA to quickly and easily take care of data entry for kids registered for their programs including sign-in and sign-out, along with important food information. With the information in one system ready to generate reports on the current status, volunteers don't have to keep track of sign-in sheets and employees don't have to tediously submit data to management systems. In the end, volunteers can focus more on their interactions with children and YMCA directors and other employees can cut out massive inefficiencies to their paper-based solutions.

Project Outcomes

With the completed attendance-tracking application, users of this system can successfully import program information, create and complete attendance sheets for each program, and generate reports on these sheets. YMCA members can use these reports to see how many kids attended each site, when they were signed in/out, and what snacks they received during the program. Additional features include one-click sign-in or sign-out, any-date attendance sheet generation, customized reports according to before-school, after-school, or summer programs, and reports that can range from any two dates selected. These new reports were designed according to the recommendations of Deborah Pricener and Jennifer Bouchard who will use these for data analysis of the programs.

Project Deliverables

We've delivered a full-stack Ruby on Rails application that is deployed using a Digital Ocean server. In addition, we've supplied admin credentials, procedures on transferring ownership to their personal Digital Ocean account, and an extended user guide found on the system.

Recommendations

We achieved our goal which was to build a sustainable application that was fully functional. For future teams, we recommend implementing a feature that sends emails to parents to set-up a child's sign-in/sign-out codes prior to the start of a YMCA program/camp. This would help the first day of the program run smoother and allow the parents to spend less time waiting in line.

Student Development Team

Jake Bittner served as the Quality Assurance representative by enforcing clear, concise coding standards and maintaining responsibility of the master code repository. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. He will be interning at Argo AI this summer and is excited to pursue a career in software development or management.

Eric Chow served as the Community Relationship representative, helping to keep in communication with the client as well as lead the client meetings. He is a junior studying Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. He is interning at Deloitte this summer in their CyberRisk practice. He is excited to pursue a career in technology consulting.

Abdusamed Sherif served as the Project Manager, helping the team stay on track by meeting deliverables milestones outlined by its project plan. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. He will be interning at Procter & Gamble this summer and is looking toward a career in product management.

Glen Wise served as the DevOps representative, engaging in server setup and maintenance, ensuring proper security protocols are in place, and making sure every new update to the application goes off without a hitch. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with minors in Music Technology and Russian. He will be pursuing his MS in Information Systems Management at Heinz College next year.