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The Allen School gym is ringing with shouts and laughter as kids from Hikone Community Center run up and down the court with their Y coaches. Each Tuesday night during the school year, these kids are transported from their neighborhood to the school as part of the Y-sponsored Get Fit! program, which promotes active play and teamwork. Antonio has been coming all year, and is eager to share what makes Get Fit! special to him. “They teach me how to be respectful”, he says with a seriousness that belies his on-court antics. When asked how his coaches do this, he shares, “They show ME respect, and then ask that I do the same to others.” And then he is back in the game.

This is what makes Y programs special: caring adults mentor kids, and teach life lessons through play.

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The Y. So Much More™.