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Chari's Story

Chari's face lights up when she talks about her favorite Child Care Teacher. When asked what makes her so great, she looks down and smiles sheepishly. "Jennie is just really nice," she says.

Jennie is one of the many staff members at the YMCA whose support impacted Chari throughout the year. When Chari's mom passed away suddenly, it left the family in need of support, financial assistance, and child care. Thanks to YMCA Scholarships, Chari was able to attend child care with significant financial assistance, and staff members were able to provide her with emotional support and exciting experiences.

Chari enjoys the same things as any other 6 year-old: swimming, art, group games and gymnastics. "She always gives her full effort," says Jennie. "And I don't think I've ever heard her complain, which is unusual for any kid this age, let alone a child in her situation. She talks about her mom a lot. It's not like that pain is just going to disappear, but I'm glad we're here to support her through this."

Chari's dad has been appreciative of the Y's role in the family's recovery process. "It's been a really tough few months," he reflects. "We're just really grateful for the Y. We love that place."



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