

# READY STEADY BALANCE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**September 22, 2016 is National Falls Prevention Awareness Day.** Join the Y and National Council on Aging and the Falls Free Coalition as we stand with older adults, caregivers, families, and health care professionals across the country to raise awareness to prevent falls.

**Take the test or encourage an older adult to learn if they are at risk for falls.**

## WHAT IS YOUR RISK SCORE?

| For each "yes" answer add the number of points listed:                              | YES | NO | Why this matters                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I have fallen in the past year.                                                     | 2   | 0  | People who have fallen once are likely to fall again.                                    |
| I use or have been advised to use a cane or walker to get around safely.            | 2   | 0  | People who have been advised to use a cane or walker may already be more likely to fall. |
| Sometimes I feel unsteady when I am walking.                                        | 1   | 0  | Unsteadiness or needing support while walking are signs of poor balance.                 |
| I steady myself by holding onto furniture when walking at home.                     | 1   | 0  | This is also a sign of poor balance.                                                     |
| I am worried about falling.                                                         | 1   | 0  | People who are worried about falling are more likely to fall.                            |
| I need to push with my hands to stand up from a chair.                              | 1   | 0  | This is a sign of weak leg muscles, a major reason for falling.                          |
| I have some trouble stepping up onto a curb.                                        | 1   | 0  | This is also a sign of weak leg muscles.                                                 |
| I often have to rush to the toilet.                                                 | 1   | 0  | Rushing to the bathroom, especially at night, increases your chance of falling.          |
| I have lost some feeling in my feet.                                                | 1   | 0  | Numbness in your feet can cause stumbles and lead to falls.                              |
| I take medicine that sometimes makes me feel light-headed or more tired than usual. | 1   | 0  | Side effects from medicines can sometimes increase your chance of falling.               |
| I take medicine to help me sleep or improve my mood.                                | 1   | 0  | These medicines can sometimes increase your chance of falling.                           |
| I often feel sad or depressed.                                                      | 1   | 0  | Symptoms of depression are linked to falls.                                              |

**IF YOU SCORED A 4 OR HIGHER, then you may be at risk for falling. Discuss this result with your doctor.**

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_