

Dear Friends of the Y,

Every day, we at the Worthington Area YMCA take on challenges that shape our community's future – challenges such as establishing healthier lifestyles, supporting families by bringing them together in a safe environment, combatting loneliness and isolation, and teaching vital skills to youth. Our members and friends call us "THEIR Y". For over 75 years, we've been proud to help our neighbors learn, grow, and thrive. We call all of you –our neighbors, members, guests, and friends –OUR greatest resource, because you are a community of people who have joined our cause, who work tirelessly alongside us, and who continue to support the mission of the Y.

Throughout Worthington, countless people know the Y for adult fitness or youth sports. Many of you learned to swim at the Y. But by now, you know that there's so much more to our Y. We are exercise and education, volleyball and volunteerism, preschool day camp and preventative health. The Y doesn't just strengthen our bodies; it strengthens our community. The Y is so much more than a gym. It's a cause dedicated to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Fortunately, where some see obstacles, we see opportunities for our members,



volunteers, and staff to make a difference. But we depend on your support to make it happen. We are only able to do this amazing work with your generosity.

Now, in this time of crisis for our country and our world, we ask you to **join with us once more**. Our community is facing one of its greatest challenges, and even when our doors reopen, the need will be great. You have been with us to care for the health and wellbeing of our community before, and we are asking you to stand by us again. You know that the work of the Y is not contained within our buildings, and together we are turning toward the challenges that currently face our friends and neighbors. The YMCA is one of the strongest community service organizations in the Worthington Area and as such, we are called to action and service.

In this time of turmoil, we stand ready to assist with childcare for essential personnel. We welcome school district 518 to our parking lot to hand out meals to children and youth in our area. We've brought our fitness classes home to you, with some of our very own instructors as well as shared online programs through Y360, MOSSA and Silver Sneakers. And we are providing community check-ins and support to our members in order for them to have what they need to stay safe at home.

Throughout history, the YMCA has moved powerfully in the direction of greatest need. We did this in World War I when we moved services to the front lines to support soldiers, and we did this again in World War II when we provided vital



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resources to support our troops. The YMCA provided safe places for civil rights leaders to meet in the 1960's, and was a pioneer in creating safe and supportive housing in the 1970's. These are just a few moments throughout history in which the Y was able to rise to meet the needs of the community. This is another such moment.

I hope you agree that the work your Y is tackling is immensely important today and as we build a pathway back to normalcy. We can't do it alone -We need you

beside us. JOIN US to GIVE AT HOME MN on May 5th and make a gift to the Worthington Area Family YMCA. Your action on GIVING TUESDAY will help ensure we have the resources necessary to deliver these critically needed services to our communities, neighbors, and friends. To learn more and make a gift to support our community's most urgent needs, please visit cruise2020.givesmart.com

Thank you for being such an important part of our Y Family. I hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy during this time. If my team or I can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are in this together and we will come through this together.

Together we are the Y and we are **here for good**.

With gratitude,

Meredith Daley Executive Director & CEO Worthington Area YMCA

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JOIN US VIRTUALLY on Giving Tuesday Now May 5, 2020

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p.s. We would love to hear from you! If you have any questions, would like to make a gift over the phone, are in need of assistance, or would just like to talk, please contact:

Kris Hohensee, Director of Administrative Services

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