

Dear Blaisdell Y Community Member,

Every year, as we close out spring and welcome the excitement of summer, we take a step back to reflect and pen a letter to our amazing community of donors here at the **Blaisdell YMCA**. This allows us to share an update on the accomplishments we have witnessed and all that we have planned for the second half of the year.

As one of our partners, making sure you know the latest and greatest is a high priority because you help bring these shining points to life!

First, though, we want to emphasize how thankful we are for your kind welcome over the last few months. Stepping into these new leadership roles has been a truly inspiring journey, and we are humbled to carry out this work alongside valued members like you.

Now, let's dig into the details! We are thrilled to share that:

- The fitness center underwent a **renovation** in December, providing members with a refreshed and upgraded space that is growing in usage. The upcoming aquatics update will include new pool tiling and paint, in addition to the hot tub and sauna areas being redone.
- We are thrilled to continue **expanding our youth programming**, including our sports offerings which are seeing higher participation numbers than ever before. Our evening Teen Thrive program also came back in April for the first time since before the pandemic.
- **Career Pathways** continues to be successful, giving high schoolers valuable hands-on employment experience. And coming up soon, our **Summer Uproar** and **Get Summer** programs will keep over 400 kids and teens active and engaged throughout the summer months. We are also helping connect more local families facing financial barriers with opportunities to explore the outdoors through a Y camp.
- On the aquatics front, plans are in the works to **partner with local schools** to provide 200+ students with water safety lessons, and we are also exploring the timeline to bring back our swim team program.
- Our **ForeverWell** programs are excitedly growing with new members and a variety of offerings in addition to group fitness classes, including Women Sharing, ForeverWell Films, Games & Bingo, and Coffee Chat.
- Our **New American Welcome Center** remains a robust community hub, offering many different types of programs and resources for newly arrived individuals and families. This is offered in partnership with neighboring organizations like the Lyndale Neighborhood Association and the Fortune Relief and Youth Empowerment Organization (FRAYEO).



- Other **community programming** continues to be hosted in our spaces at no cost to our partner organizations, such as the Minneapolis American Indian Center which facilitates drumming for elders, fitness classes, and after-school programs. We

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your help in making all of this (plus so much more!) possible. Your ongoing generosity empowers us to continue showing up for our community members, purposefully evolving our programs and resources to meet diverse needs. It is no exaggeration to say that together, we are making a profound impact in the lives of many.

We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months as we foster new opportunities to explore wellness, connection, and growth. **Thank you for being a vital part of our Blaisdell Y community!**

With gratitude and well wishes for a wonderful summer ahead,



Lucia Strand
Associate Executive Director



Jason James
Operations Director