

Dear Maplewood 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 **Maplewood 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, I want to emphasize how thankful I am for your kind welcome over the last few months. Stepping into this new leadership role has been a truly inspiring journey, and I am humbled to carry out this work alongside valued members like you.

Now, let's dig into the details! I am thrilled to share that:

- It is great seeing our **community programming and partnerships** continue to grow! A couple of recent highlights include the popular MN Mermaid Convention that took place in February in our pool area and event space. And in March, we hosted our Family Night event that included sandwiches donated by Chick-fil-A, \$200 worth of groceries donated by Hy-Vee, and participation by members from the Maplewood Police and Fire Departments.
- It has been awesome seeing our **ForeverWell community** thriving and expanding! A line dancing program has been added to our mix of offerings, along with opportunities to access arts and culture through our partnership with the on-site theater company, Ashland Productions. Members have been provided with free tickets for the final run-through of each show.
- We look forward to welcoming more youth in the coming months for our **summer programs**, including Summer Power for grades K-5, Summer Sports for grades 1-6, and Coaches in Training for grades 7-9. In addition, 250 local teens will receive free summer memberships through our Get Summer program. Youth- and family-focused activities and events will take place throughout the summer months as well. Join us in embracing the joy and energy that these young members of our community bring!
- While lifeguard shortages impact our ability to open up more pool times, we are **actively recruiting** for these roles and encourage you to refer those in search of employment opportunities to check out these openings.
- Ensuring all community members have access to our programs and resources remains a high priority, especially as the need for **financial assistance** in areas like youth programs and family memberships continues to rise. We see the wide-ranging impact of these donor-supported scholarship dollars each day and hope to reach even more individuals and families facing barriers through this funding in 2024 and beyond.



I want to express my 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.

I 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 Maplewood Y community!**

With gratitude and well wishes for a wonderful summer ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Schmitz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Schmitz  
Executive Director