

Dear Southdale 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 **Southdale 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:

- Our **ForeverWell community** growth has been steady, with over 2,000 unique member visits each month and program development tailored to meet this group's physical and mental well-being. These members have also taken on new volunteer roles, such as reading to children in Kids Stuff and making calls to other ForeverWell members who haven't been here in a while to check in and invite them back.
- It has been beautiful to watch **intergenerational engagement** develop across our Y, fostering connections between demographics and creating a vibrant, inclusive environment for all. This bridging of generations is especially prominent in the summer months when we have more kids and teens here during the day, so spaces are shared by a diverse mix of ages.
- We look forward to welcoming 150 local K-9 kids each day to our **youth summer programs** that include Summer Power, Summer Sports, and Coaches in Training. Our sports offerings are in partnership with Richfield Middle School and include soccer, volleyball, golf, baseball, tennis, pickleball, basketball, track and field, flag football, and cheer/dance. In addition to all that is offered for the younger kids, up to 250 local teens will receive free memberships as part of our Get Summer program.
- Plans are in the works to develop more **family-focused gym spaces and offerings** with the hope of enhancing the value of family memberships even more and catering to diverse and evolving membership needs. This involves increasing the number of dedicated family nights in the gym, opening the climbing wall more frequently, adding more Kids Gym and Playscape times to our schedule, and creating drop-in family-centered classes like story time and craft hours.



- 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 family memberships continues to increase. We see the wide-ranging impact of these scholarship dollars each day and hope to reach even more individuals and families facing barriers through this donor-supported funding in 2024 and beyond.

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 Southdale Y community!

With gratitude and well wishes for a wonderful summer ahead,



Nick Hanks
Associate Executive Director



Catherine Quinlavin
Associate Executive Director