

Dear YFS Community Member,

As we quickly approach the halfway point of the year (yes, we are somehow already almost six months into 2024!), I am reminded of how this time of year always seems to be full of transition, reflection, and celebration.

That certainly is the case here at **YMCA Youth and Family Services**, and I am eager to share with you some program updates that show the great growth we've witnessed across all of our programs and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

- We are thrilled to be partnering with the University YMCA to open the first **Center for Social Impact Office** on the University of Minnesota campus. In joining forces with our amazing UY colleagues, we will be building this new establishment together to meet the emerging needs of this community. This partnership offers exciting opportunities for current students and college-bound youth who will be able to access resources on campus, enhancing their academic and personal development.
- Our integration with the University Y means we will be saying goodbye to our **Hiawatha satellite office** that served as a YMCA for 109 years and transferring a significant amount of historical documentation to be archived through the University of Minnesota. This includes rosters from the 1920s, old program brochures, materials from former global initiatives, and much more.
- We are proud to announce that our **Stable Home, Stable Schools** program is expanding beyond the Minneapolis Public Schools system. In an ongoing partnership with the Public Housing Authority and the City of Minneapolis, we will now be able to help the families of kids at every elementary school in the city find stable housing and access other resources to improve their livelihoods. Our team that is dedicated to this program has doubled in size over the last year to accommodate this expansion, and we look forward to seeing the increased impact this initiative will have.
- Our team recently participated in **YMCA Day on the Hill**, where we advocated to legislative leaders in support of a bonding bill that would provide funding for our Youth Resource Line, Safe Stay program, and an initiative to provide Mental Health First Aid training to all our staff members. We are hopeful the bill will pass!
- It is my honor to share that one of our amazing program executives, Rory Moran, was one of a select few to be awarded this year's **30 Under 30 award** from the Y USA Emerging Leaders Resource Network. He is now the third YFS staff member to be recognized with this award! We are so proud of Rory and grateful for his commitment to our mission by elevating the voices of those we serve, identifying gaps, and growing programs to meet emerging community needs.



- As we continue to face funding gaps due to the restrictive nature of much of our grant funding, we are prioritizing efforts to secure more donations via foundations and individual donors. This allows us to proactively **address the emerging needs** of individuals, families, and communities, as they arise. If you know of others who may be interested in supporting our mission, please be sure to connect them to our site. Boosting community involvement with our programming will allow us to reach even more people who are in need.

I am so grateful for your partnership in this important work that is helping us not only sustain, but also grow, our programs so that we can support and empower even more young people and their families.

THANK YOU for your generosity and being a valued part of our YFS community!

With heartfelt gratitude and wishes for a wonderful summer ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Smith', written in a cursive style.

Matt Smith
Executive Director