



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

## A Message from the CEO

March 19, 2020

Dear Valued Members and Families:

With the closing of city and county schools and the need to provide the most essential services for the most vulnerable amongst us, we are confronted with a moment of truth. When schools close, children lose two meals daily – breakfast and lunch. For low income families, these may be the only complete meals some children receive in a given day. Likewise, thousands of parents depend upon us for early education and before and after-school care. For these families, the services we offer are essential.

In light of the uncertainty created by the closure of schools and the increased threat of the Coronavirus, we must focus our resources of time, talent and treasure on those amongst who are at the greatest risk – our children. We have, therefore, elected to close on March 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm, and utilize our facilities to feed children and to care for the youth and teens in the community we serve. We will encourage families to keep their children at home; however, it goes without saying that some parents must work and some parents are first responders and “essential” employees who must work to protect us. These families need safe and reliable places for their children.

We will engage our strategy that enabled us to serve more than 23,205 meals and snacks to children in 2019, so starting on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be providing meals to the youth of our community in collaboration with Greensburg Community School Corporation. Families must register for these meals, so please see our social media channels and website for those details.

Since our inception in 1914, we have always been that organization that walked in the direction of the challenge. Today, we are being asked to make a choice; either we close our YMCA entirely in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus or we feed and care for children while taking the calculated risk that we can protect them from exposure to the virus. We cannot stand by and permit children to go hungry or to be traumatized by their lack of options.

We ask that you join us in our effort. We ask that you continue to pay your monthly membership fee so that we can use this revenue to “do good” during this time of uncertainty. Naturally, we will put your membership on hold if you ask us too, but if you want to join us in our mission of service to others, we invite you to join us. We know your membership is meaningful to us and that “meaning” lies in the relationships you have built at the Y. Those relationships are based upon the humanity you share with others. We are asking you to support us in service of “our” children. The Coronavirus has created enormous uncertainty; however, how we manage it is in our control. Join us in creating a history that demonstrates how we came together and served those who needed us the most. Let us tell the story of the “meaningful” ways in which we responded. Let that be the story that is told.

As members, we do not want you to think we do not care about you and your health and wellness. In fact, we have added virtual and live stream classes on our website. These workouts will enable you and your family to exercise together from home. Needless to say, we will reopen at first chance, and hope that you will find it in your heart to continue to support us. You, your loved ones, the country and world are in our prayers during this time. Be healthy and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Diane Hart-Dawson, CEO