



March 21, 2020

Dear Valued Y Donor,

Thank you for your support and commitment to the Y. We greatly appreciate all that you have done for the Y in helping us address community needs and provide youth development and healthy living programs to those who need us most – this is our Y’s social responsibility.

Your support during this uncertain time is more important than ever. As a donor, you’re aware of the critical work that our Y does every day to serve children, families, and individuals. From preventing summer learning loss for low-income children; to helping cancer survivors regain their strength and stamina; or from ensuring that families have positive spaces to play together; to teaching kids to be safe around water and build their swimming skills – the Y has been a cornerstone for communities throughout Silicon Valley.

Yes! I’ll help. Click here to give.

On March 17, when the “Shelter in Place” order was announced and all non-essential services were required to cease, our nine YMCA health and wellness centers and our resident camp were closed to normal operations. We also paused youth programming and after school care. Because our Y is embedded in so many communities throughout Silicon Valley and we are recognized as one of the strongest community service organizations in the area, government officials and healthcare providers called upon us to be a partner in the response to COVID-19.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTERS

Concerns about the impact of COVID-19 underscore the vital leadership role that our Y continues to play in the welfare of our communities. In light of the national, state, and local guidelines for slowing the spread of the virus, we’ve redeployed our wellness facilities and several of our school sites to be **Community Response Centers**. While details of all services are still developing, some early examples of this work include:

- **Critical Care for Essential Workers’ Children** – We are working with hospitals, medical providers, first responders, and municipalities to repurpose our staff and facilities to provide emergency care for the children of medical providers and first responders. Starting on March 23, two sites with the collective capacity to serve 200 children will open at our El Camino YMCA and

the Morgan Hill Unified School District. A third site will open on March 30 at our Southwest YMCA. These care centers will follow strict guidelines in accordance with the Public Health Department. As the need and funding becomes available, we anticipate additional facilities and staff will be redeployed to open even more sites.

- **Child Nutrition Sites** – When schools closed, many children and families lost access to healthy meals. The Y quickly partnered with Child Nutrition Services, Second Harvest Food Bank, and several schools to distribute essential food to children and families in need through “drive-up and pick-up” stations. Today, 20 sites are providing more than 6,000 healthy meals daily – and this number is growing every day.
- **Blood Donation Stations** – The Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage of lifesaving blood. We’re currently working with the Red Cross to set-up stations for individuals to donate blood. The first station is anticipated to open at our South Valley branch within the coming week.
- **Hot and Healthy Meals for Seniors** – The Y is ensuring that our most vulnerable population impacted by COVID-19, older adults, still have access to healthy meals. Staff teams are making home-cooked meals, packaging them, and running them out to the cars of mobile adults and caretakers. More than 120 meals are currently being distributed daily at sites in Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

I hope you agree that the work our Y is tackling is immensely important for our pathway back to normalcy. **But, we can’t do it alone...we need you beside us.** Please consider making an additional gift to YMCA of Silicon Valley to help ensure we have the resources necessary to deliver these critically needed services to our communities, neighbors, and life-saving healthcare providers.

[Yes! I'll help. Click here to give.](#)

Thank you for being such an important part of our Y family. I hope you and your loved ones stay healthy through this challenging period.

With warmest regards,



Sandy Walker
President and CEO
YMCA OF SILICON VALLEY