



YMCA OF METUCHEN, EDISON, WOODBRIIDGE & SOUTH AMBOY

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020



**FOREVER
THRIVING.**
For a better us.

Dear Board Members:

Since we closed our doors on March 17th, we knew the day would come when we would be able to welcome our members back into our facilities again, but we never realized what a long and arduous road it would be. While we have finally opened our doors, it is in a very different environment from one that our staff and members are used to, but one that will hopefully get better in the coming months. Things have been moving along at a very fast pace since we were given the go-ahead from Governor Murphy that gyms were allowed to reopen at a maximum capacity of 25% on September 1st. We quickly reached out to our members to let them know that the branches would be opening up indoors, with reduced hours at first, but fully expecting to expand those hours in the near future. Starting September 12th, we were able to offer our members use of the facilities seven days a week. This was not an easy task, and a huge thank you goes out to our leaders and staff who worked very hard to make this happen. While members are asked to make appointments for indoor fitness, we continue to offer outdoor fitness as well as virtual fitness classes to provide a multitude of ways for our members to work out while feeling safe and comfortable. #foreverthriving

Simultaneously, we opened up most of our Learning Centers for the new school year and were challenged with filling up our classrooms. While there are many hurdles for parents to overcome during the pandemic, thanks to Governor Murphy's child care initiative, paying for childcare is not one of them. Read the article below on how he announced, at our very own Edgar Learning Center in Metuchen, his plan to assist families in paying for child care. We have

also included some back to school photos for you to enjoy below. #foreveraplacetolearn

As we strive to return to normalcy, I thank you all for your continued support and your resiliency in serving our organization under such stressful conditions. #foreverconnected

Rose Cushing
President & CEO

Gov. Murphy visits Edgar Learning Center to Announce \$250M Child Care Initiative

The lobbying efforts of Rose Cushing and many other child care advocates has paid off! On August 28th, Governor Murphy visited Edgar Learning Center to announce that he is dedicating \$250 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide support to families with school-age children and supporting the re-opening of child care centers. The State's Department of Human Services will provide subsidies for children ages 5-13 through the end of 2020. The Child Care Subsidy Program is available for families with children with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level who meet program criteria. The Department of Human Services will also create a new \$150 million program to provide child care support to New Jersey families who are not eligible for the state Child Care Subsidy Program, but who are in need of either full or part-time child care due to their child's school's remote learning schedule. This assistance will be available through the end of 2020 for families with children, 5 to 13 years old, with annual incomes below \$75,000. The other component of the funding will go toward the reopening and sustainability of child care centers, including supplemental payments of \$75 per subsidy-eligible child per month. Also on hand for the announcement was Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson and Department of Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer.



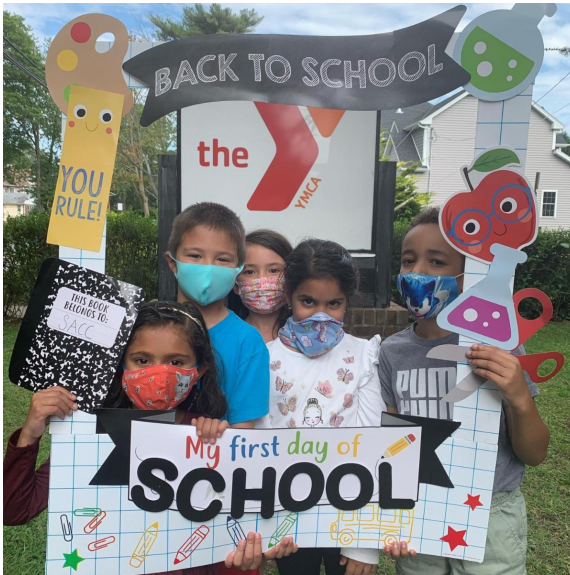
[Watch the video](#)



**FOREVER
A PLACE
TO LEARN.**
For a better us.

Back to School

As summer and summer camp winds down, we are welcoming our students back into our Learning Centers. As children have so often proven, they are resilient and have quickly adapted to the new "school day", following instructions from the teachers on to make sure all of our children and staff remain safe! After a long summer of quarantining, they are very happy to return to the classroom! #forevernurturing



Manasquan Bank Donates School Supplies!



Manasquan Bank donated school supplies to create 70

sling bags for elementary school students registered in our programs. Supplies included: pencils, notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, markers, scissors, highlighters and hand held pencil sharpeners.

We are so grateful for the continued generosity and support of Manasquan bank!



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YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center Update



Watch the video for a virtual tour of the YPCC!

Black & Gold Membership Drive Underway

Beginning September 8th, the YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center is accepting membership applications online as part of the Black & Gold Membership Drive. Members who join during this time will have their Joiner's Fee waived and their name will also appear on a banner in the branch. The Black & Gold membership drive ends on September 30 with the tentative opening date for the facility as October 1st, barring any State or local mandates.



Starting Monday, September 21st through Saturday, September 26th the YPCC will have guided facility walk-through opportunities:

- Monday**, September 21st, 9am-5pm
- Tuesday**, September 22nd, 9am-5pm
- Wednesday**, September 23rd, 9am-5pm
- Thursday**, September 24th, 9am-5pm
- Friday**, September 25th, 9am-5pm
& LAST CHANCE...
- Saturday**, September 26th, 9am-noon

Guidelines:

Individuals or connected groups of five will be taken around the facility for a no-touch tour (first come, first served)

Health screening required to enter the facility.

Masks are required to enter and must be worn indoors throughout the visit.

We will have registration assistance available on site for those that do not have access to a computer or do not feel comfortable with the process. (limited availability).

Seema Pande Receives Women in Leadership Certification

Board member Seema Pande received her Women in Leadership certification from Cornell University in March. This program positions women in leadership roles to recognize when there is a gender dimension at work and how they can out-strategize gender bias and their own habits to achieve better results. As a result of this certification, Seema has delivered a few lunch-and-learn sessions where she works at New York Life and has more planned. Congratulations Seema!



George Trapp Becomes a Grandpa!

Congratulations to Board member George Trapp on his new grandson, George Michael Bray. George was born to Katie and Mike Bray on August 15th at JFK Hospital in Edison. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 oz. Our congratulations and blessings to all!



Leaders Club completed their Power Of Youth Challenge project "Six Feet Ahead". This project is a friendly reminder to the community to social distance and stay safe!



Our members continue to give us feedback on the programs and services that we offer to them during the pandemic. It is a testament to the hard work and perseverance of our staff and leadership team when those efforts are acknowledged in writing. Here are some testimonials we have received recently:

"Getting into the water for the family has been an irreplaceable experience. The type of exercise and training that you get from swimming cannot be replaced by any of the available options during the COVID lockdown. Although the kids were diligent with dry land and other creative training methods, they could not maintain their peak swim performance levels. Now that they are back in the water, they are slowly rebuilding their performance and hope to improve their performance to new levels. Although we are not having swim meets, my daughter is eagerly looking to make good progress on her times because she made personal performance goals to get national swim performance times. For kids, the training and

competing window is very small and it is difficult to make up for lost time. Any available swim training is valuable for them. I value swimming as a low impact, full body workout. As soon as the lap pool was available, I signed up to get back in the water. Getting regular exercise at the pool is key to my exercise routine. The family is happy to get back in the water and we hope to get more time for exercise and training." -Christine (Swim Team parent)

"When I learned that the YMCA opened the pool for lap swimming workouts by appointment I immediately rejoined to participate. The YMCA never fails to provide great value and service to its members and this is certainly no exception. I've been part of the South Amboy Y community as both a member and instructor since it opened and this act, opening the aquatics portion of the gym during the pandemic, is just one more perfect example of the extent they habitually go to accommodate their members and community. The YMCA of MEWSA is a blessing."

-Anthony D.

"I was ecstatic when I learned that the YMCA had re-opened their pools. I hadn't been able to swim laps since the beginning of March. As someone who swims 5 to 7 days per week for more than 17 years, the news caused me to exclaim, "Yay!", out loud." -Mary L.

"I just wanted to send a email to say thank you to You and your staff for taking good care of Niya And Kevin for the last 3 1/2 months. It has been such a rough four months with the coronavirus and your staff has made times easier and we want to thank all of you. Thank you for all that you do!" - Devon V.

