

Dear Valued Y Members and Families:

We've missed you! It's been hard to be away from the people we care about, but thank you for persevering and doing your part to stay safe and stop the spread of coronavirus. Since March16 when Governor Murphy set into place Executive Order #104 causing us to close our buildings and child care programs, we at your YMCA have been working hard to support our community. Our doors may have been closed, but the Y hasn't stopped serving. We've been hard at work providing emergency services to frontline workers, families and our neighbors in need.

Some of the things we have been doing in the past 14 weeks include:

- Providing emergency child care services for essential workers
- Collecting food for local food banks
- Collecting masks for St. Peter's University Hospital
- Calling over 2,000 senior members for wellness checks
- Providing over 2,300 Zoom virtual exercises classes
- Holding Blood Drives

As a 100-year-old nonprofit organization with deep roots in this community, we have the knowledge and experience to respond to our neighbor's social needs, especially in times of crisis. These past three months we have worked hard to help fill the community's needs and we will continue to work with our community partners to strengthen our neighborhoods, towns and our State.

Since April we have not drafted your membership payment but have asked that you consider making a donation in support of our work in the community. We are grateful for those that have supported us. We've been carefully planning to reopen our facilities and reactivate key programs in the safest manner possible so you can access the services and support that you miss and need the most. We have re-opened child care and will continue on July 6th with the launch of our 2020 camp season and the opening of our Oakcrest outdoor pool in Edison. Additionally, outdoor group exercise classes have begun in Metuchen and Edison and will be scheduled for South Amboy shortly. Our virtual group exercise classes will continue for the foreseeable future as we look to begin our new way of engaging members.

The safety and well-being of everyone in our community – especially our most vulnerable neighbors – is our top priority. When reopening, we will be doing everything possible to ensure our facilities meet the highest standards for hygiene and safety and we have modified our policies and programs to facilitate safe physical/social distancing practices. With these efforts in mind, we will begin drafting membership payments for July, which aligns with the anticipated Phase II re-opening in NJ.

We are happy to report our staff are returning to work for updated training on new practices and procedures. We're following guidance from health experts and local officials to safely serve everyone in our community and all of these efforts will be supported with your July membership

The Y isn't a building. The Y is people from all backgrounds and walks of life who come together to improve their lives, nurture their families and strengthen their community, together.

We're so happy to be welcoming you back soon.

Together, we're a better us.

Sincerely,

Rose Cushing (

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