



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Blaisdell Y,

Speaking of warm, it's hard to believe we're quickly approaching the start of summer! Doesn't it feel like just yesterday that we were pulling our heavy coats, mittens, and hats from storage?

Well, just as quickly as the seasons seem to turn here in Minnesota, our work here at the Blaisdell YMCA is also continually evolving to meet the needs of our community, thanks largely to the ongoing support of generous donors like you.

And now that the winter gear is again out of sight and we eagerly greet summer, we are taking time to reflect on the progress we've made so far in 2025 and want to share a bit about what you can look forward to in the second half of the year.

Let's dive into some updates, shall we?

- Our massive **aquatics renovation** was completed in late July last year, including new pool deck tiling, fresh paint, updated lane lines, and new custom-built benches for our sauna. We have since been **expanding our swim lesson program**, adding a weekday evening option and introducing a new Teen Swim Basics class.
- In 2024, **\$350,000+ in donor-supported financial assistance** helped offset membership and programming fees to ensure our offerings and resources remain accessible to all individuals and families in our community.
- Our vibrant **ForeverWell community** continues to grow and thrive with new and returning members, some bonds extending beyond the walls of the Y that began while building connections during our **many senior-focused offerings**, including Women Sharing, ForeverWell Films, Games & Bingo, and Coffee Chat. Additionally, our ForeverWell group exercise classes have exceeded expectations, with some of the most popular options **doubling in size** from last year, from roughly 15-20 participants to upwards of 35-40 – WOW!
- **Career Pathways** and our other youth programs like **Teen Thrive** continue to flourish at Blaisdell during the school year, giving young people valuable hands-on employment and leadership experience in a variety of departments. Our **new partnership with Somali Youth Link** has been invaluable in teaching our youth life skills and providing additional support to the teens we serve.
- Our **health and wellness department** has experienced a boom in engagement, especially since we've purchased new pilates reformer equipment! Small group wellness classes have taken off and serve over **90** people each month, while our group fitness classes engage an average of 850 participants each week. After listening to member feedback, we are excited to announce that we are opening a **new functional fitness space** in our wellness center this summer. More details to come in the next few months!
- Through our ongoing partnership with the **Lyndale Neighborhood Association**, we continue to host **free ELL classes** for our community. Over 200 participants visit Blaisdell each month to learn English language skills and connect with others.

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Ongoing support from partners like you is the driving force behind these achievements, our plans for the future, and so much more. Your inspiring commitment helps us grow and adapt our programs so that no community member has to question whether the Blaisdell Y is a place for them.

**We are beyond grateful to have you by our side in this important work, positively impacting many lives in many ways.**

As we plan for the future, we're excited to keep you updated on our journey as we create new ways to foster wellbeing and strengthen our community.



Once again, thank you for being a vital part of why and how we carry out our mission each day. We wish you a fantastic summer ahead and can't wait to see all the good we'll accomplish together in the months and years to come!

With deep gratitude,

*Your Blaisdell Y Team*