



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Dayton 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 Doug Dayton YMCA is also continually evolving to meet the needs of our community. 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?

- **Holidazzle** was another huge success for us this past December! Our Y responded to community needs by hosting the Cameleon Shops in Powerhouse to support BIPOC- and women-owned businesses. We also led Stage Activation sessions on Nicollet Mall to get visitors moving outside and facilitated family-friendly activities inside our building (the "Warming House").
- We proudly hosted over 230 women in March for our **International Women's Day event**, honoring and celebrating the critical roles women play in caregiving. Attendees enjoyed networking opportunities, wellbeing service offerings, and amazing lead voices of powerhouse women during sessions and panels.
- Our **offsite wellbeing programming** continued with five sound baths at HCMC in 2024, and Tai Chi sessions are already underway there this year, reflecting our Y's ongoing commitment to supporting community-wide wellness opportunities.
- New this summer is **Outdoor City Activations**, which will include a Sunrise Rooftop series, dance/yoga/movement sessions in local parks, plus Tai Chi, sound bowls, and more on Peavy Plaza. Rooftop season is also returning soon (YAY!), welcoming members to enjoy the gardens, sunshine, and socializing. We look forward to hosting private events up there as well.
- We continue to strengthen our **community partnerships** with organizations like Hennepin Healthcare, the Minneapolis Downtown Council, Casa Corazon, Meet Minneapolis, B Suite, the Dayton Project, and more — allowing the Y to respond to evolving community needs and build meaningful collaborations.
- Additionally, we are developing ways to weave whole-person wellbeing into corporate events and meetings, creating **customized, integrated retreats and team building activities** for businesses and organizations.
- Our Y remains committed to access and equity by approving an increasing number of **scholarship memberships** to those who otherwise would not be able to afford one, as well as serving as a trusted convener at the heart of the evolving downtown Minneapolis community. Our team prides itself on being welcoming and meeting individuals where they are on their wellbeing journeys.

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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 Dayton 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 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,

Jennifer Menk
Executive Director

Jessica Wittwer
Operations Director