



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Elk River 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 Elk River YMCA is also continually evolving to meet the needs of our community. As a valued donor and partner, it is important to me that you stay well informed of the mission-driven work happening inside our Y, as well as outside our walls in the broader community, to support whole-person wellbeing.

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?

- **Welcoming New Leadership:** Our leadership team has grown with the addition of three new full-time team members: Kristen Geiger as Senior Health and Wellness Coordinator, Christen Luhman as Sales Manager, and Malissa O'Leary as Custodial Supervisor. These leaders provide core value-centered support to staff, members, guests, and the broader community. Their presence helps create safe, welcoming spaces throughout the facility, and we are so excited to have them on board!
- **Community Space in High Demand:** Our community room continues to be a hub of activity, regularly hosting Sojourn Bible Study, Sherburne County SUP retreats, and youth leadership training. It's also home to our School Age Care program during spring break and over the summer when 150+ youth are in attendance daily. Our ForeverWell classes, potlucks, and coffee club, in addition to WHY Church Youth Ministry and YMCA Christian Mission prayer meetings, round out the vibrant programming that happens in this shared space.
- **Youth & Family Programs on the Rise:** We're expanding experiences for youth and families with initiatives like Get Summer, which provides local 9th–12th graders with a free membership to help keep them active and engaged while school is out. Also happening soon is our Summer Kick Off Family Event on June 14th (9am–12pm), which is open to all members and will feature fun activities for all ages! Additionally, Club Y, kids fitness classes, and increased access to the outdoor pool at Camp Manitou will provide even more engaging options for young people in our community.
- **Serving a Growing Region:** Through expanded staffing and programming, our Y is meeting the evolving needs of the surrounding communities we serve—including Elk River, Otsego, Big Lake, Monticello, Rogers, Zimmerman, Princeton, and Ramsey. Our continued growth reflects our deep commitment to connection, wellness, and inclusion across the region.

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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 Elk River 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.

Each day, I encounter guests and members whose lives are deeply impacted by the experiences offered by and relationships developed at the Y and through our programs.

Your involvement, support, and generosity in contributing to Y Day of Giving, Comedy for a Cause (our annual fundraising gala), and the Elk River Annual Fund help ensure that our offerings are accessible and sustainable to meet the growth projected for our community at large.

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 every day at the Elk River Y. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Ruby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end.

Molly Ruby
Associate Executive Director