



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Forest Lake 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 Forest Lake 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, I am 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?

- We are excited to continue expanding our **community partnerships**! In the last year, we've started working with a local nonprofit called **Family Means** to offer early on-set respite care weekly for those suffering with dementia, bringing in our wellbeing services to this group. Additionally, we've partnered with the **Special Olympics** to host the Lakeside Legends Special Olympics Swim Team in our pool for training.
- It has been awesome to see a huge influx in our **ForeverWell** population! In response, we are increasing senior-centered programming to meet growing demand, including adding more **educational and informational sessions** focused on health and wellbeing interests of this group. This is important, as we are the central hub for our community when it comes to our senior demographic. We love helping these members stay active and social!
- We look forward to again offering **free summer memberships to local teens** through our Get Summer program, providing them a safe place to stay active and connected to their peers while school is out. We are also excited to welcome many K-5 kids attending Summer Power who will use our **pool and splashpad** twice a week.
- Donors continue to make the most impact on the many families we serve, as the majority of our financial dollars go toward **scholarship assistance** – giving low-income families the opportunity to access our facilities and participate in our programs so that cost is never a barrier. These community members need a **safe and welcoming** environment for themselves and their children. For parents and caregivers, it means so much to be able to utilize Kids Stuff so they can focus on their personal health and wellbeing, or to get their child(ren) in swim lessons or other youth programming for the first time. This will no doubt continue to be a **growing need** moving forward, remaining a key gap in funding we are hoping to help fill!

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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 Forest Lake 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, I'm 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. I 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 "Lindsay Flanagan". The script is fluid and cursive.

Lindsay Flanagan
Associate Executive Director