



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Maplewood 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 Maplewood YMCA Community Center 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?

- Our **Family Fun Nights** last year provided meals for 100 people with support from Chick-fil-A, and our **gift drive** for Maple Ponds collected over 200 presents for local families. Additionally, our **Family Fun Day and Open House** welcomed 120+ community members of all ages.
- Another big highlight from last year was welcoming **St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter** who engaged with young people about the Y's REMLE (Regional Multicultural Leadership Experience) initiative, reinforcing community leadership and mentorship.
- The **Achievers** program continues to offer a safe, enriching afterschool space for youth in our facility and starting in June, we look forward to welcoming many K-5 kids for **Summer Power**. We will also be providing hundreds of local teens with a free membership through our **Get Summer** program so they have a place to stay active and connected with peers. Last summer, we provided over 300 of these memberships.
- This summer, we also look forward to hosting a meeting for all **local food shelves** to come together and connect about current needs and pathways for growth.
- Our **ForeverWell** programs continue to thrive, with large classes reaching over 70 participants! These offerings provide holistic care and connection for older adults, emphasizing wellness through movement, learning, and socialization.
- The P3 program continues to open doors for those who can't afford full-price memberships through **scholarship assistance**, helping put health and community resources within reach of more individuals and families. Demand for this assistance remains high.
- We are thrilled about the **new artwork** that has been generously donated to our Y, including a stunning painting of our pool area by Hsiu-fang Susan Liu that now hangs in the hall for all to admire.

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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 Maplewood 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 ahead, 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, appearing to read 'Alex Schmitz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Schmitz
Director of Operations

