



May 20, 2025

Warmest greetings, Friend and Partner of the Ridgedale 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 Ridgedale 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?

- In partnership with Hopkins and Wayzata schools, our **after-school care program** has been serving approximately 40 children every weekday.
- Our staff, members, and volunteers organized a **holiday gift drive** last year for our Minnetonka Heights Neighborhood Center, ensuring that no child would be without presents. We also partnered with **Gifts for Seniors** and collected four pickup truck loads worth of donated gifts for homebound seniors over the holidays.
- The **Family Fun Event** we hosted last August brought Y members and the broader community together for live music, food, activities, and a whole lot of fun! Stay tuned for details about this year's event coming soon.
- Our **Narwhals swim team** sent a record 25 swimmers to the regional swim meet in Des Moines in March. This was the most of any Y of the North swim team - we are so proud!
- Starting in June, we look forward to welcoming approximately 150 kids each day for our **Summer Power** program, and **Camp Christmas Tree** will be serving 300+ kids daily. We will also partner with Wayzata East Middle School, using their space for our **Summer Sports** programming. Much summer fun is ahead!
- Our **ForeverWell program** continues to grow through pickleball, exercise classes, MN Arboretum outings, and many other social and wellbeing activities. In addition to helping seniors stay strong and fit, offerings like these can also be lifelines for dealing with loneliness and depression.
- Year-round **youth sports programming** also continues to grow, allowing kids and teens from all backgrounds to learn teamwork, build character, and develop healthy self-confidence.
- Generous donor support continues to help ensure we don't have to turn anyone away from membership and program opportunities for financial reasons. We are hoping to increase our entire membership base this year, and being able to provide **scholarship assistance** to more individuals and families is a crucial part of this so that cost is never a barrier. If someone wants to become a member but can't afford to, we always find a way to make it happen.

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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 Ridgedale 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, appearing to read "Steve Coley", written in a cursive style.

Steve Coley  
Executive Director

