



May 20, 2025

Dear YMCA Friend and Partner,

As with kids, you're not really supposed to pick a favorite Y of the North location or program — though it's hard not to, right?

Well, I cheat a little, and I find myself grateful for whoever came up with the notion that two (or more) opposing things can be true at once.

So...want to know my favorite? It's Camp St. Croix!

Summer is undoubtedly the prime season for **camp adventures** at places like our beloved Croix and several other wonderful overnight and day camps. The excitement is building as we're gearing up to **welcome thousands of kids from near and far into outdoor spaces** across Minnesota and western Wisconsin. This is a time I'm particularly grateful for our hundreds of seasonal Adventure team members who deliver amazing experiences and — just like our incredible lifeguards — prioritize, above all else, the **care and safety of our young people**.

Actually...you want the truth? My favorite is the St. Paul Midway YMCA!

In the next few months, we'll break ground on the construction of the **Peter J. King Family Foundation Center for Child and Family Wellbeing**, just across the street from our popular Midway Y. This new center will feature a creative blend of programs, serving both to alleviate a profound child care desert in this community and also to build a **pipeline of new child care professionals**. These new leaders will intern at the center, gaining valuable skills and experiences to complement their studies at one of our partners in higher education, like Minneapolis College. This center will also focus on supporting parenting adults, promoting **family wellbeing and economic prosperity** for all we serve.

Okay, okay, after thinking about it a little more, I'd like to declare my true favorite...Youth and Family Services!

I think it's important you know that this summer (and during all other parts of the year), any young person between the ages of 12-24 experiencing homelessness, needing food, or feeling unsafe can call our **YMCA Youth Resource Hotline** to be connected with immediate assistance. Please help us get the word out about this important resource by sharing this number where you can: **763-493-3052**. We have folks answering the phone and checking messages **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily**. This hotline has been available and widely utilized for decades, and it's thanks to the generosity of our donors (like you!) that we have been able to **support countless youth** over the years through this resource.

(continued on backside)

Now, I could go on, but...I think you get where I'm going here. 😊

With passion and conviction, I can (and will, if you offer me the chance) go on at length about why each of these YMCA initiatives and offerings, plus the **hardworking teams and inspiring work** behind them, merits just as much favor as the next.

It all comes back to this: **our commitment to foster wellbeing for the individuals and communities we serve.**

But ultimately, behind this commitment and every facet of our mission, donors — **generous, faithful, and wonderful** — have stood up to make it all possible.

So, if I had to pick just one favorite, it's no contest...it's **you**! You're our partner and friend who has decided to help **bring our mission to life**, to bring wellbeing and opportunity to our communities.

We are — beyond question — bigger, better, and stronger because of your continued support. Thank you!



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 appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Michelle Edgerton
Executive Vice President of Advancement