



May 30, 2026

Dear Dayton Y Community Members,

Have you ever stopped to think about the role you play in someone else's story?

It's not always something we see in big or obvious ways. More often, it shows up in small, everyday moments — the ones that matter more than we realize.

We see these moments brought to life every day here at the Dayton YMCA: A child building confidence in the pool. A family receiving support when they need it most. A teen trying something new and discovering what they're capable of. A senior reaching a fitness goal surrounded by people who've become dear friends.

These moments may seem simple, but together, they tell a much bigger story about what it means to belong and be part of a community. And they don't happen without supporters like you.

Because of your generosity, people walk through our doors and feel welcomed, inspired, encouraged, and cared for — sometimes at exactly the moment they need it most.

Reflecting on the first part of the year, I'm excited to share a few highlights and updates made possible through your ongoing partnership:

- We are seeing encouraging membership momentum, with **member check-ins up 20% and overall membership up 27%** compared to this time last year. More people are choosing to walk through our doors, connect with others, and be part of this growing and vibrant community.
- This summer, we are intentionally creating more opportunities to bring people together through **free and accessible community events**. These gatherings will strengthen relationships within our building and the surrounding neighborhood while increasing awareness of the Y as a welcoming space for all.
- We're also excited to welcome members back to enjoy our **rooftop space**, a unique gathering place in the heart of downtown that supports connection, wellness, and community in a truly special setting.
- Our most meaningful programmatic growth is being intentionally centered around strengthening our role as a **convener for the Minneapolis community**. As loneliness and social isolation continue to rise, we are expanding opportunities for people to gather, connect, and build relationships in a safe and welcoming environment.

- Donor generosity continues to make a profound impact, with **26%** of Dayton Y members currently receiving **donor-supported scholarship assistance** — ensuring that everyone in our community has the opportunity to belong, grow, and thrive at our Y.
- What I am consistently most proud of is the **dedication of our team**. From Member Services staff who warmly welcome each person, to lifeguards who keep our community safe, to instructors and trainers who motivate and support members, and custodial staff who maintain clean and safe spaces — this team shows up every day with care, professionalism, and a deep commitment to those we serve. As one member recently shared, the Dayton Y has become more than a place to work out; it has become their community and a place where they feel known, safe, and supported.

Behind each of these bullet points are real people and real stories, and your support as a donor plays a role in every single one. That's the kind of impact that doesn't always make headlines, but it's felt every day in the lives of those we serve.

And now, as we head into summer, my team and I are excited to keep building on this momentum — creating more opportunities, deepening connections, and continuing to show up for our Dayton Y community in the ways that matter most.

Thank you for being an important part of our story. We're so grateful to have you alongside us through every chapter, and we can't wait to see what we'll make possible together in the months and years ahead!

Wishing you a bright and memorable summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Wittwer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jessica Wittwer

Operations Director, Dayton YMCA at Gaviidae