

May 30, 2026



Dear Ridgedale 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 Ridgedale 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 as we head into summer, I'm excited to share a few highlights and updates made possible through your ongoing partnership.

Let's take a look...

- Our **Community Fun Day** this past fall was a big hit! We welcomed our members and community members to join us for a day of fun for all ages. Several hundred people came out to enjoy food, music, games, archery, health scans, youth sports, and family fitness classes.
- Last year, our staff, members, and volunteers organized a **holiday gift drive** for our local Minnetonka Heights Neighborhood Center, ensuring that no child would be without presents. We also partnered with **Gifts for Seniors** and collected hundreds of gifts for homebound seniors over the holidays.
- Our **Narwhals swim team** had an amazing season that ended with a regional competition in Des Moines in March. Additionally, our **swim lessons** continue to help children gain essential water safety and swimming skills, strengthening their confidence in and around the water.
- In January and February, we started a **Community Donation Drive** in response to the heightened hardship many in our community were facing. We partnered with like-minded organizations and various Y programs, and through the generosity of our members and staff, we were able to help **177 families and individuals** with essential food, personal care, and baby items. Volunteers from our staff and Community Board helped sort and deliver the items to those in need.
- Our **Reading Pals program** also had a great winter session! In partnership with our Minnetonka Heights Neighborhood Center, Minnetonka Police Department, and our Community Board, volunteers read with children to help improve their reading development and confidence with reading aloud.

- Starting in June, we look forward to welcoming approximately 140 kids to our Y each day for our **Summer Power program**, and **Camp Christmas Tree** will be serving around 300 kids daily. We will also partner with Hopkins West Middle School, using their space for our **Summer Sports** programming. Lots of summer fun is ahead!
- In addition, every Thursday evening in the summer at Day Camp Christmas Tree, we will be recruiting volunteers to **serve meals to families on 'Family Night'** to raise money for **camp scholarships**. In 2025, we raised over \$8,500 to help ensure cost is never a barrier to accessing life-changing camp experiences. This year, we hope to raise even more money for this important initiative!
- Last but certainly not least, our **ForeverWell program** continues to grow through pickleball, exercise classes, Gratitude Circle, MN Arboretum outings, and many other social and wellbeing activities. On top of helping seniors stay strong and fit, offerings like these can also be lifelines for dealing with loneliness and depression.

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 Ridgedale 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, appearing to read "Steve Coley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steve Coley
Executive Director, Ridgedale YMCA