



May 30, 2026

Dear Eastside Y Community Members,

As we step into the summer season, I'm reminded of just how much our community has come together and shown up for one another.

The past several months have brought real challenges, but through resilience, partnership, and unwavering support from people like you, we are now seeing brighter days ahead. With renewed energy and optimism, we continue our work at the St. Paul Eastside YMCA — growing, adapting, and strengthening the community we all care so deeply about.

Wrapping up the first part of the year, I'm excited to share a few meaningful updates that reflect the impact of your support and what lies ahead in the months to come.

Leading the Way in Youth Development

- Our Achievers program continues to serve up to 30 middle and high school students each week, providing mentorship, academic support, and hands-on technology learning. In addition, our Career Pathways program remains a vital resource, recently offering paid internships to 12 at-risk youth living on the Eastside. These programs help young people build confidence, develop life skills, and prepare for successful futures.

Empowering Young People Through Partnership, Education, & Lifesaving Skills

- 2026 marks our fourth year of partnership with TRIO Upward Bound and Metro State University, providing academic and college preparatory support for underrepresented youth ages 16–19 from low-income households (at or below 150% of the federal poverty level). This collaboration is designed to equip young people with the skills needed for success in high school and beyond, including college readiness, SAT preparation, and academic tutoring.
- Through this partnership, our Y hosts students four days per week, June through August, at no cost. Participants engage in mentorship, workshops, and team-building activities that foster self-confidence, leadership development, a strong sense of community, and personal responsibility.
- This year, we are proud to expand this partnership by incorporating Safety Around Water and First Aid classes, along with a CPR training component. These additions will provide students with swimming instruction and water safety education, helping them build confidence in and around water while also gaining critical life-saving skills.

Growing Connections Across Generations

- This summer, we are excited to continue expanding our community garden, creating opportunities for seniors and children from our Early Childhood Learning Center to learn and grow together. This shared space fosters mentorship, promotes healthy lifestyles, and strengthens the bonds that make our community so special.

Equipping Students for School Success

- In early August, we will again help prepare and distribute 500 backpacks filled with essential school supplies to local elementary and middle school students at our National Night Out event. This initiative is aimed at supporting families in need by ensuring students have the necessary supplies to start the school year off right.

Your generosity as a donor and community supporter helps make all of this possible. Because of folks like you, we are able to continue showing up for our neighbors, expanding opportunities, and ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors feels supported and valued.

We are incredibly grateful to stand alongside you in this work. Together, we are not only meeting today's needs, but we are building a stronger, more hopeful future for the Eastside community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission. We wish you a joyful and refreshing summer and look forward to all we will accomplish together in the months ahead!

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dru Dalton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dru Dalton

Associate Executive Director, St. Paul Eastside YMCA