



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Y Members,

We miss you tremendously and anxiously await the day we can reopen our doors. In the meantime, we deeply appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate the challenging circumstances related to the COVID-19 crisis. We are working as quickly as we can to keep you updated and address your questions.

Continuing to serve during this pandemic is challenging. During “normal” times, your membership dues operate so much more than a gym. Your dues ensure that our building is healthy for the children who view the Y as their second home, for community organizations that need event space, and for you, our members who exercise and socialize while in the facility. While we are still working hard to serve our members, we have pivoted our efforts to include critical needs in our community at large. The Y has stepped forward to:

- Respond to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia’s need for canned and shelf stable goods by facilitating a food drive. In 4 days, we provided over 762 meals for families! We will continue collecting goods next week.
- Collaborate with the Red Cross to use our facility for a blood drive in the coming weeks.
- Offer our resources to the Athens Council on Aging to help with food delivery to seniors.
- Offer our resources to both Healthcare Systems for critical childcare needs.
- Continue to engage in conversation with community leaders to be aware of additional needs and respond if we can serve in any way.

Although the facility is temporarily closed to you, we know that our Y is bigger than our building. It is amazing to see the Y push outside of these walls and serve innovatively through our staff and our bus fleet. While we would prefer to see you in person, we will do everything we can to keep you engaged, connected, and motivated during this time.

- Wellness & Youth Videos—Our virtual platform gives our youth and wellness staff the opportunity to get paid while at home. We are continuing to add videos weekly if not daily and are working on a schedule, so you can anticipate new videos at certain times.
- Communication—Our directing team is HERE, Monday-Thursday, from 9am-3pm to answer phone calls, be a sounding board, and help connect you to the resources you need.
- Social Media—We are updating our social media outlets daily with facility maintenance photos, ways to stay active, and keep you informed!
- Zoom—We are actively engaging with our 2020 Summer Day Camp team.

We encourage you to stay with us during this time. Keeping your membership active helps you and our community stay strong. Donor dollars are reserved for specific needs like financial assistance and program enhancement. Zero percent of donor support goes towards operational cost. You, our members, keep this facility alive to serve. Now more than ever, our members are critical to the continued operation of the Athens Y.

We understand if you are not able to retain your membership during this uncertain time. Should your situation require it, and you wish to have your April membership draft canceled, please email Jacqueline@athensymca.org by April 10th and we will take care of it immediately. If we do not hear from you, your monthly draft will continue.

We hope you are proud to be part of this amazing institution. You play a vital role in helping us deploy services to support our community by continuing your membership. This is how the Y steps up to help, and we hope you will join us to keep our community strong.

We miss all of you. We are praying for all of you. And we are so excited to see you soon.

M. Shae Wilson-Gregg

CEO