



FALL 2024

Newsletter

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From the Desk of the CEO

Dear Y Family,

As we continue to serve the vibrant community of Rapid City and its surrounding areas, I am reminded daily of the vital role the YMCA plays in fostering inclusivity, wellness, and support across all ages, races, faiths, abilities, and economic backgrounds. With our reach extending to nearly 13,000 individuals annually through our four branches in Box Elder, Custer, Edgemont, and Rapid City, we are proud to be a cornerstone of community life.

Ensuring Access for All

Our mission is to ensure that everyone has access to our services and programs, regardless of their financial situation. Our "Y For All" campaign is a testament to this commitment, raising \$350,000 each year to fund our comprehensive financial assistance program. This campaign supports a myriad of activities, including afterschool programs, summer camps, our cancer survivorship program, and so much more! By subsidizing memberships and program fees, we enable individuals from all walks of life to benefit from our empowering initiatives.

Battling Food Insecurity

Food insecurity remains a critical issue in our community, with 1 in 5 children in the United States unsure of where their next meal will come from. Through our long-standing partnerships with the CACFP/SFSP federal feeding programs and Meals on Wheels, we have already provided 146,567 meals this year to children and seniors in need. This effort is essential in our fight to ensure that no child or senior in our community goes hungry.



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Educating Youth

Our commitment to early learning and childcare is unwavering. As one of the largest childcare providers in the West River region, we serve over 300 children aged 0-5 daily across five sites. Additionally, our afterschool care programs serve 330 youth daily from 14 elementary schools across Custer, Fall River, and Pennington Counties. With 38% of these students attending at no cost due to 21st Century Community Learning Center grants and support from donors like you, we are making a significant impact on the educational and social development of our youth.

Community Strengthening

Our holistic approach to community strengthening emphasizes youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. We address critical social issues, such as food insecurity, through initiatives that provide nutritious meals and ensure everyone can access our services through financial assistance programs. By fostering an inclusive environment and encouraging volunteerism and community engagement, we are building a stronger, more connected community.

Your continued support and partnership are crucial to our mission. Together, we are creating a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey to strengthen our community.

With gratitude,

Keiz Larson
CEO
YMCA of Rapid City

