April 12, 2020

Dear Community,

This is our third formal message since March 16th and to say the world keeps “shifting” is – let’s be honest - a bit subtle. But what is steadfast? Our commitment to eliminating racism and empowering women – in partnership with you.

I hope this message finds your loved ones and you, safe, healthy and well. We know that you have A LOT going on; we deeply appreciate that staying connected to our work continues to be part of your values.

Our Southeast Wisconsin community has been hard hit by COVID-19 but has also witnessed an outpouring of thoughtful connection and perseverance. The most recent data indicates our region is making progress due to physical distancing and community cooperation – so let’s stay the course.

At YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, we are humbled to be part of the essential network of support – for both the immediate time being and the months ahead. In addition to continuing our economic empowerment and racial justice work remotely:

- We have expanded services to include a Support Line, connecting the community to essential resources and providing a desperately needed sounding board;

  and, pending funding,

- We are poised to be part of a collaboration that will address a fundamental equity issue: the digital divide in the Milwaukee and Racine area communities that may prevent HS students from graduating on time. Stay tuned!

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin is an active essential resource and service provider during the time of COVID-19 and we have not slowed down one bit. Quite the opposite.

Very soon, we will host two key online events:

- Circle of Women April 23rd at 6pm – connect with community in brand new ways; join us virtually for $10 OR join us for the virtual event and at the in-person fall 2020 celebration for $150. Get details here.

- Stand Against Racism will feature virtual town halls on April 22nd and 24th. From its health impact on the African American community to incidents of harassment affecting Asian Americans, we will explore how COVID-19 demonstrates our mission to eliminate racism is as timely as ever. More information here.

As always, communication remains key. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and check our website for important updates.
A number of you have reached out, recognizing that the financial pressure COVID-19 creates for social sector nonprofits is immense. Thank you for releasing restrictions on previous donations and frequently asking how you can help further, even as none of us knows precisely what comes next. If you would like to provide financial support you can donate here. Anything you are able to share is welcome at any time.

Most of all, thank you for taking the time to learn below how we remain focused on the health, safety and dignity of our community – especially those who are in many different ways more vulnerable than others during a prolonged national health emergency.

If you have suggestions or ideas on how we can continue to serve, please send an email to communication@ywcasew.org.

In solidarity,

President & CEO