

November 2020



Dear Friends Committed to Community,

Fall has been beautiful in Southeast Wisconsin, but unfortunately our community continues to feel the significant impact of COVID-19 as infection rates rise and Wisconsin earns the distinction of being a “hot spot.” While this reality and the burdens that come with it – physical distancing, economic pain, physical and mental health strain – is a challenge, **we continue to serve and to stand together.**

We repeat our mantra: At YWCA Southeast Wisconsin we know that being in the same room (or not) does not determine what is community. **Community is defined by the values that bind us together as we build a more just future for ourselves and our families.**

Those values mean that that YWCA Southeast Wisconsin’s community services continue with virtual delivery – without interruption – and **our services continue to evolve and grow even in the midst of a pandemic.** In both our Milwaukee and Racine locations, we have offered select by-appointment on-site services, while all adult education, financial management coaching, job readiness and related support services are available remotely.

So, too, all racial justice programming has been and continues to be provided virtually. Our **Unlearning Racism: Tools for Action®** and **Conversation on Race** courses have grown exponentially and continue to have waiting lists. And we hope you will join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual **An Evening to Promote Racial Justice.** [Micala, please insert link.] Virtually, of course.

Don’t forget that **during this time, YWCA SEW’s services also now include our [Support Line](#) – connect with us to learn about resources especially needed at this time or just a wellness check-in.**

If you visit our Milwaukee HQ, please know that the only entrance is from our parking lot and you will be required to answer basic health questions, wear a mask while in the building (we can provide these) and wash your hands before proceeding to your appointment. The Job Center is not open at this time.

**Continued thanks to our donors and stakeholders. Their direct financial support and the collaborations with sister organizations make everything possible – that and the commitment of an amazing staff.**

**Thank you to all who trust us to help others build a better life for themselves and their families – especially now.** If you would like to support our work and the future we can build together, know that any amount is appreciated. **Donate Now.** And, we hope you will stay in touch.

Please follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**. And, check our website for important updates. If you have suggestions or ideas about how we can continue to serve and collaborate, email us anytime at [communication@ywcasew.org](mailto:communication@ywcasew.org).

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**President and CEO**