

September/October 2021



**Dear Friends Committed to Community,**

We had beautiful summer weather mixed with COVID concerns of a different nature – the prevalence of the Delta variant. Although increasing vaccination rates mitigate risk of severe illness or death for many, vaccinations cannot provide 100% guarantees for anyone and the unvaccinated remain in a risk category of their own.

**We seek to provide our communities high quality, safe services**, so because of these circumstances we continue to be open to the public with precautions in place. Our Milwaukee location provides all job center and related services both virtually and in person – in fact, we have a new socially distant set up, complete with 1:1 support as needed. Our Racine location provides all services virtually, and can accommodate select in person support by appointment. And, of course, virtual services are location-free – and all of those continue to grow – from Personal Financial Management programs to Adult Ed. This is true also for our racial justice and gender equity programming.

At YWCA SEW, we haven't missed a beat while keeping our program participants, volunteers and staff as safe as possible. And, **we are grateful to you for complying with our mask and social distancing policies – in effect regardless of vaccination status.**

Reasonable precautions will continue as we evolve back to a world where we freely hug each other, laugh easily and enjoy face-to-face company. That means our special events will also respect whatever current guidelines may be in place in a given community. And we hope you will join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **An Evening to Promote Racial Justice.**

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.**

**Continued thanks to our donors and stakeholders. Your direct financial support and collaborations with sister organizations make everything possible – that and the commitment of an amazing staff.** 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 that reads "Penny Finn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President and CEO