COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

“Food banks have only been able to provide us canned goods, and we could not afford fresh items like fruit and vegetables. The Y has been a blessing to us as they have been able to get us the fresh food we desperately needed.”
— Community Member

When it mattered most, the Y of Greater Seattle showed up for our communities’ ever-shifting needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We supported over 7,000 seniors through Community Cafés and Healthy Aging events to connect seniors with services, help them stay up to date on COVID-19 resources, and maintain social connections.

In partnership with New Horizons, we provided safe day shelter for young adults experiencing homelessness at the Downtown Seattle YMCA during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

FOREVER IN SERVICE. For a Better Us.

We provided continuous child care and day camp, including emergency child care for first responders, to over 671 children of working families, ensuring they received on-going care and support while schools were closed.

Over $1,200,000 in membership dues was generously donated by members to support our community response.

Over 450 homeless youth and young adults sheltered per night.

Over 400,000 meals to low-income and marginalized individuals and families through our Hunger Initiatives, a 91 percent increase over 2019.

Over 400,000

HOMELESS YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

SAFE SHELTER FOR YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

7,000 SENIORS SUPPORTED VIRTUALLY

FOR A BETTER US.

CHILD CARE PROVIDED FOR FRONT LINE WORKERS
In 2020, we formalized our commitment to equity and justice while building new communities of learning. We established the Equity & Justice Center of Excellence with a $1 million seed designation from the Board of Directors and made a pledge to hold ourselves accountable to live our mission and weave the threads of equity and justice into everything we do.

In collaboration with the Ethiopian Community Center health council, we were able to create and pursue a strategic plan and were able to provide support to 81 families and individuals in the Ethiopian community.

We pledged to become an anti-racist organization while reaching 234,170 people of all backgrounds, abilities, and financial circumstances with equity and justice centered programming.

We engaged over 2,100 people in conversation and learning through the Unleashing Potential for All series.

“...The experiences between the youth of today and Dr. Tommie C. Smith’s at the Olympics in 1968 are not all that different. They continue to fight through many of the same struggles and racism that was present years ago and they continue to be role models at the same time. I was also able to have my 12 year old son watch it as he is a huge Paolo Banchero fan and for him to hear his story and the stories of others of what they have been through led to some hard but good conversations in our house last night. I appreciate the youth being willing to share.”

— Unleashing Potential Series Participant
When it comes to housing and mental healthcare, there was no more urgent moment than 2020. We rose to the challenge and expanded our services to meet the exponential growth in need. We expanded behavioral health services to Y members and community of all ages to address the growing need for mental health and substance use services.

In September 2020, Miranda experienced a psychiatric emergency which required hospitalization while chronically homeless. She was referred to a Y Social Impact Center program. It helped Miranda to find some stable ground within herself and regulate and process negative emotions and communicate them to those around her. She was then able to transition from homelessness to permanent housing of her own. Miranda was successful in navigating some personal goals on her own and advocate for her needs with multiple providers.

“My case manager was the best I have ever had and helped me gain many blessings!”
— Miranda

We opened the new Arcadia young adult shelter in South King County, the final step in integrating Nexus Youth and Family Services and the Y.

We opened Arlington Drive, in partnership with Tacoma Housing, and Roy Street Commons, in Seattle’s Capitol Hill, to provide transitional housing for young adults.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

“I like the YMCA Diabetes Prevention class because it works! I am learning new habits I want to continue in the future. Since I started this program seven months ago, I have lost 24 pounds and continue to lose more. My A1C is 1.2 points lower than it was when I started. I like the class material, we focus on a specific area each week and share ideas with each other.”

— Program Participant

Health and wellness programs were also critical in 2020 and harder to provide due to social distancing guidelines. We hit the ground running to make sure our members and the community had access to the care and support they needed to stay healthy, prevent chronic disease, and manage the effects of the pandemic on the body and mind.

We immediately launched virtual workout classes and healthy living programs, and adjusted our in-person programming to meet COVID-19 health and safety requirements. We also expanded our virtual Chronic Disease Prevention programs to include community members to help more people take charge of their health and wellness goals.

FAMILY SWIM TIME

COAL CREEK YMCA

Served
4,691
people in our aquatics centers. Our pools remained open for critical water safety instruction, wellness, and lessons.

We developed and started incorporating a Whole Person Health model into all aspects of our programming to support a healthy spirit, mind, and body.
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

“Day Camp was a magical and important experience for my kids and is a shining example of how in-person education is not only possible, but beneficial in the era of COVID.”

— Day Camp Parent

2020 was a hard year for kids, separated from their school, friends, and social-emotional learning opportunities. The Y was quick to innovate to meet the needs of students and children.

We offered virtual learning programs to support academic and physical education needs and launched Y LEAP Academy, partnering with 11 school districts to support children and families struggling with virtual learning.

We safely offered 37 one-week backpacking trips serving 269 teens through teen leadership programs, Boys Outdoor Leadership & Development and Girls Outdoor Leadership and Development (BOLD & GOLD)

We nurtured and empowered 96,009 children and teens to develop their gifts and give back to their communities.

FOREVER HERE for Youth & Families

With traditional summer camping canceled, we activated our camps in service of the whole family. After months at home, 1,300 people filled 285 cabins for three or six-day sessions this summer.

1,284 teens engaged virtually through YMCA Earth Service Corps and Youth and Government.

We safely offered 37 one-week backpacking trips serving 269 teens through teen leadership programs, Boys Outdoor Leadership & Development and Girls Outdoor Leadership and Development (BOLD & GOLD).
FOREVER TOGETHER. Forever grateful.

We are able to serve because we are made for and by our community. Thanks to donors, organizational partners, volunteers, and staff, we are building a better us.

Thanks to the Norcliffe Foundation, we are moving forward with the purchase of property at Mineral Lake. This will be the site of the first new overnight camp for the YMCA of Greater Seattle in over 100 years!

We partnered with Forterra to purchase Camp Kilworth in Federal Way, formerly a Boy Scout camp, where we will offer day camp, family camping, events, and environmental education.

DONORS AND PARTNERS

“The Y community lifted me up and gave me hope. And here we are, it’s 2021, the fear, uncertainty and isolation of the last year is slowing fading. All through this time the Y has given hope, solid leadership and tangible resources. I’m proud and grateful to be a member of the YMCA community and support the Y’s work with my time and my resources.”

— Barbara Peterson

18,746 volunteers donated 344,196 hours of service to the Y.

$9.7 million was raised by donors and invested back into the community to benefit kids and families.

MINERAL LAKE, WA
FIRST NEW OVERNIGHT CAMP IN OVER 100 YEARS

Received historic gift of $18 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in support of our efforts to build a more equitable and just community and advance equity and justice for all.
In December, MacKenzie Scott selected the YMCA of Greater Seattle, along with other vital King County organizations to receive a major, unrestricted gift of $18 million to support our ongoing work of making community-centered change.

We were selected because of our longstanding commitment to our community and dedication to equity and justice. In developing the investment approach for this generous gift, we focused on supporting investments that provide relief now for a community in crisis, investments in our staff and infrastructure, and community transformation. Additionally, we will retain funds to ensure the continued success of our organization’s ability to build and support community now and into the foreseeable future.

This gift will be put to work through:

- Whole Person Health

- Kindergarten Readiness Programs

- Investments in our staff

- Broadband Expansion

- Capital Projects including Camp and Health Center Expansions

Thank you, MacKenzie Scott, for sharing our vision of empowering all people to reach their fullest potential.

MacKenzie Scott Invests in the Y for Recovery, Equity, and Justice

This gift means we can take a significant step forward in reducing barriers in access to healthcare and early learning for marginalized communities, as well as increasing access to the outdoors and our in-center programs.