Dear Y Family and Friends,

The past year was another year of challenge and escalating community needs, but once again we endured. We rose up together and showed up for each other and cared for our community despite the barriers before us. Our community remains, at the heart of our work and inspires us to strengthen our commitment to grow our impact and help youth and families thrive. At the Y, we deeply care about the physical, mental, personal, social health and wellness of young people, families, and communities throughout our region. With you, we support our neighbors in living their healthiest lives to reach their fullest potential in spirit, mind, and body.

As we dig out of the pandemic and look ahead to sustainment, we know there is much work ahead to lift and support youth, families, and communities, remove barriers to success for youth, address the long-term needs that escalated during the pandemic, and so much more. Even with these challenges ahead, we are ready to stand with community and meet these challenges head on. Our work to advance equity and justice for all, become an anti-racist organization, and build a new normal where everyone can thrive is already underway. We are keenly focused on the opportunity before us to do even more to help our communities rebuild, rebound, and address pressing needs, especially for those furthest from opportunity. If there’s anything we’ve learned over the last two years, it is to never waste a crisis and to seize every opportunity to do better and be better. We’re on a journey to becoming a better us and we could not be prouder of the members, volunteers, donors, and staff who continue to walk alongside us in our work every day. From our hearts, thank you.

As we gaze into the future and envision the lifesaving change our collective work can cause, we invite you to imagine a future: where young people have secured housing; where single parents are able to work with the confidence of having access to quality, affordable child care; and where every child has equitable access to opportunities to foster their gifts and interests towards a successful future.

At the Y, we imagine this world and smile as we envision the impact on lives and dreams that can be realized. We know that we can create this future in our lifetime, but it requires all of us to walk together. As a community caring for community, we can ensure everyone, at every age, receives the support needed to be productive, healthy, empowered, and happy lives.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this journey. We cannot do it without you. On the following pages, you’ll learn more about the remarkable ways the Y helped our communities weather the storms of the last year and emerge even stronger inspired with optimism and hope for the future.

In gratitude and community,

Loria Yeadon
President & CEO, YMCA of Greater Seattle

Advancing Equity and Justice for All Through Community Collaboration

Our volunteers, donors, and partners showed up in 2021 to help us recover and build back stronger from the challenges of 2020. With their support the Y continues to step up to meet community needs.

263 volunteers contributed 1,080 hours of service.

8,079,351 dollars raised by 884 donors, funds which were invested back into the community to benefit kids and families.

25,327 people were served through Y programs designed to advance equity and justice through Whole Person Health.

2021 IMPACT REPORT

Having a Y in your community is a big asset no matter where you live, but I think Seattle is extra blessed. The Y serves so many neighborhoods and populations. It takes a leadership role on issues like foster care and mental health. The YMCA provides the common space for people who need some help and those who have the ability to help, and it really encourages families to play together.

~ Connie Ballmer
2021 A.K. Guy Award Recipient
Advancing Equity and Justice for All Through Commitment

The Y made concentrated and deliberate investments in re-evaluating and re-thinking our programs, services, and training with a focus on reaching those who are most often pushed to the margins and bringing them to the center of our work, today and tomorrow.

Hired and welcomed inaugural leadership for the Y’s Equity and Justice Center of Excellence, which spurs innovation through strategic leadership in all equity and justice initiatives. Pictured: David L. Humphrey Jr., Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Chief Equity & Justice Officer.

Engaged more than 1,500 people through our Y Community Conversation series, a learning series with a focus on timely discussions addressing social justice, racial equity, current events, and community issues.

Established the Global Engagement Boxes program in collaboration with DELTA Airlines and global partners in Nicaragua and Mexico, to provide more than 100 families and youth in the Highline and Auburn school districts with educational kits highlighting local and global issues.

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Supported more than 1,500 children, young adults, and families with food and mental health resources through the Y's New American Welcome Center.

Before joining this program, I knew I wanted to attend college, but I didn’t have anyone or anything that could push me to help discover specifically what career path I wanted to take or how to get there. Being involved in this program allowed me to have the support and resources needed to get to where I wanted to be after high school.

~ Dawit, Y Scholar Participant

Advancing Equity and Justice for All in Mental Health and Housing

The Y expanded our services to meet community needs, reaching more youth and young adults than ever. The need for mental health and substance use services grew 43 percent last year.

The Y served 1,004 people with immigrant and community needs, increasing the percentage of our mental health counselors who identify as BIPOC or LGBTQI+ to 45 percent.

3,041 people accessed employment, education, and violence prevention services which were brought to Burien and Kent Seattle.

1,933 young people accessed employment, education, and violence prevention services which were brought to Burien and Kent Seattle.

Supported more than 5,000 children, young adults, and families with food and mental health resources through the Y's New American Welcome Center.

Housing continued to be a major need for youth. The Y was able to serve 1,456 young people (up 61 percent over 2020), in finding housing or preventing eviction.

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YMCA OF GREATER SEATTLE

2021 IMPACT REPORT
Advancing Health Equity for BIPOC Communities

Health disparities were on full display during the pandemic, particularly among our East African and African American neighbors. The Y hired Community Health Navigators from impacted communities to help address high health disparities in King and Snohomish County.

We partnered with the 101 Club and Gabrielle’s Wings to serve 60 underserved youth.

Through ever-changing Covid-19 protocols, we continued to serve 4,500 Y members through personal training, over 5,400 in virtual exercise classes, weekly virtual cooking classes, virtual active older adult community cafes, and 500 people through virtual chronic disease prevention classes.

Community Health Navigators reached more than 3,000 people with Covid-19 vaccines, cancer screening, and culturally and linguistically tailored health and wellness education and programs by bringing services to community beyond the walls of the Y.

Advancing Equity and Justice for All Through Youth Development

The Y continued to meet the needs of children and families despite the challenges of the pandemic.

A bold commitment to conservation, outdoor access, and fostering environmental stewards with the purchase of property on Mineral Lake in Lewis County will welcome a third camp for youth, families, and communities.

3,000 youth participated with early education, before & after school child care, day camp, overnight camps, virtual winter camps, teen logic, and environmental programs, and overnight leadership experiences.

409,950 meals served in collaboration with 45 partners across King County, including door-to-door delivery, produce boxes, community meals, pantry, mobile meals, and mobile markets.

25 locations across school districts served with 7 facilitated virtual classrooms during the midst of the pandemic when schools were closed, creating safe and creative spaces for youth to learn and thrive.

3rd Overnight Camp at Mineral Lake

409,950 meals served in collaboration with 45 partners across King County, including door-to-door delivery, produce boxes, community meals, pantry, mobile meals, and mobile markets.

I had always considered myself able to purchase my own goods, but lately, as prices have risen and shortages are apparent, I have found myself falling behind. As statistics fail to bring home the poverty line, whatever that means. My family and I are truly grateful.

~ Vera, Y Produce Box Recipient

Kids ask me every day if today is the day we get to go to the pool. I am so grateful. I can’t tell you how much our students needed this.

~ Sarah Talbot, Lowell Elementary Principal