



An update on your Y membership & programming

To our YMCA family,

We hope that you and your family are adjusting to the new normal as we all join together to fight the spread of COVID-19. We know that this is an extraordinary time for everyone, and we miss all of you.

Since 1852, the YMCA of Greater Hartford has been serving the needs of our community as a charitable organization open to all and committed to helping people develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. Each year we provide more than \$2 million in financial assistance so that thousands of individuals and families in our communities can learn life-saving water skills; attend life-changing summer programs; access life-rebuilding cancer recovery programs; grow in life-enriching childhood education programs; and so much more.

When this crisis ends, we will still need to meet our constituents' needs. The YMCA of Greater Hartford needs your help in ensuring that we can remain strong and continue to provide vital programs to our communities in the months and years to come.

FIGHTING FOR OUR Y

Our staff members are very important to all of us. To many of our members, they ARE the Y.

Yet the financial reality of being closed means we have had to furlough hundreds of our staff members. We were able to pay staff for the additional two weeks that we were closed in March in an effort to ease the gap between unemployment benefits.

It is our hope that we can bring everyone back together when we re-open.

A lean crew remains to support the Y services you rely on. We have a streamlined administrative crew working, as well as staff to continue handling membership and virtual benefits while you are home. Our Leadership Team will be managing the day-to-day details like paying the bills that still continue; while others will be preparing our branches for re-opening. We are working hard to ensure you come back to the Y you know and love.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

When we come back, we will continue serving our members and community with programs and financial assistance to help them achieve their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. That is why we are asking our members to continue to be active YMCA members. The YMCA will continue to draft monthly membership dues in April; those dues will transition to a charitable gift to support the YMCA of Greater Hartford. We will acknowledge you for your generous support with a letter and documentation for tax purposes. If your membership is currently paid through a third-party partner (Renew Active or Silver Sneakers), we ask that you also consider making a donation. If you plan to continue your draft, you do not need to take any action.



While we hope that everyone will consider continuing their Y membership, we know that many are in a financially difficult situation due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. If you are unable to continue paying your monthly membership dues in April, please send an email to friend@ghymca.org to put your membership on hold. There will be no charge for holding your membership or restarting it when this crisis ends.

If your financial situation requires you to put your membership on hold, you may also request a refund on your March dues for the dates we were closed, March 16-March 30.

Y AT HOME VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP

While the Y's buildings are closed, our commitment to our members is always ongoing. We want to provide you with resources to stay active and engaged while you are home. Here are some options to stay connected to us and your Y friends and family:

- Starting today, Monday, March 23, you can participate in a national exercise challenge: Health-Y 600! This program allows states across the country to compete to reach their goal of 600 minutes of exercise over the next 30 days. Learn more and sign up by [clicking here](#).
- Looking for structured at-home workouts? Y-360 has you covered! With more than 60 videos with unique workouts designed specially for adults, children, and seniors, you can find everything you need to keep your wellness journey going! [Click here](#) to learn more.
- Longing for that sense of friendship you get by coming to our branches? Active members of the YMCA who continue their membership can join our brand-new, Y At Home Facebook groups! Visit your branch Facebook page (link at the bottom of this page), and on the left-hand side select "Groups." You'll find "BRANCH NAME Y at Home," just request to join! We'll also have exclusive content from our wellness team, youth development team, camp team, aquatics team and more!

In the coming days, you can expect more information on what the Y is doing for you while you're home. Stay tuned to your branch Facebook pages and to your email for more information.

PROGRAMMING

All scheduled programming drafts, including sports teams, child care, exercise programs, etc., will be placed automatically on hold for April. If you would like a credit or refund for the unused portion of March, March 16-March 30 (March 23-March 30 for early childhood programs), please send us an email at friends@ghymca.org. A separate email will be sent to child care families with more information.

At this time, we are working to determine how this crisis will impact our spring 2 session, and if we will be able to start it late. Please stay tuned for further communication. If you or your child participated in spring 1 programs and you would like a credit or refund for the 3 weeks we were not able to provide, please send us an email.



We are grateful for the outpouring of support we've received from our members, volunteers and staff and we are thankful that you are a member of our Y community. It is because of you that we have been able to serve the Greater Hartford area for more than 150 years and will continue to do so for generations to come. Stay safe and healthy, and always feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

In gratitude,

Harold Sparrow
President & CEO
YMCA of Greater Hartford