



THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY • BALTIMORE CITY • BALTIMORE COUNTY • CARROLL COUNTY • HARFORD COUNTY • HOWARD COUNTY

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **The Y in Central Maryland to Reopen Family Center Ys, Camps and other Y Programs Starting June 19th with Significant Health Protocols as well as a Commitment to Integrate Crisis Work into Ongoing Operations**

- The Y implements significant new health protocols across all sites and programs along with a heightened focus on health disparities, food insecurity, racial equity and other social issues magnified by the pandemic.

The Y in Central Maryland reopens its family center Ys across the region on Friday. Nine of its 11 full service Ys will open at 5pm, Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Harford Counties. Its two Ys in Baltimore City will remain closed until the Mayor gives his approval for those facilities to reopen. The Ys two swim-only centers in Dundalk and Randallstown are expected to open shortly.

Following these openings, Y outdoor day camps across the region will also open on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Y Preschool restarted operations on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Other Y operations such as Head Start, mentoring, and summer enrichment programs for underserved youth will continue virtually. School-based Y youth programs such as Before & After School Enrichment programming are expected to start up again when the school year restarts in the fall, assuming that the region's schools reopen in some fashion.

All Y operations have implemented significant changes in protocols intended to help keep members, participants and Y associates safe while in Y facilities and programs. These include reduced capacities, the installation of Plexiglas in key areas, the addition of considerable signage to help manage social distancing and communicate new health procedures, enhanced antibacterial cleaning, the requirement that all Y associates wear face coverings, as well as significant new training to help assure all health and safety protocols are followed. The Y's health protocols were developed in conjunction with the CDC, the Maryland Department of Health, the American Camping Association and other experts.

At the same time as preparation for safe reopening across Y sites and programs has occurred since the Y's closure in March, with the support of funding partners, the Y has also invested heavily in crisis community work since the start of the pandemic. This has included:

- The care for hundreds of children of front line and other essential workers across 15 Y sites
- The distribution of over 200,000 meals to those who are food insecure
- The distribution of 7,500 learning packets to students who do not have internet access
- Over 12,000 contacts with senior members
- Over 66,000 contacts with Y Head Start families
- Ongoing support of 600 youth mentees and their adult mentors

While the care for children of essential workers has ended in order for facilities to resume core operations, the Y's crisis community work, including the distribution of food, will continue. At the same time, the Y is committed to focusing more heavily on addressing health, economic, social and racial disparities magnified by the pandemic.

Says President & CEO John Hoey, "We are extremely excited to open our doors and welcome back our great members and participants. At the same time, I believe firmly that organizations that thrive are those that recognize changing needs and adapt quickly to address them. We can't just pretend that because we are reopening much of the Y's core operations that it is business as usual. It is not. The world has changed dramatically since this crisis hit and the Y is changing with it to continue to meet the community needs we've always addressed *and* lean in harder to help address critical social issues which unfairly hold back segments of our community. It's a challenging time, but also an exciting opportunity to do even more to improve life for all. We are ready and up for the challenge."

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ifa846vl0fyy4nm/A%20Changed%20World%20A%20Ready%20Y%20-%20Apple%20Devices.m4v?dl=0>

#### **Our Mission:**

The Y is a charitable organization in Central Maryland dedicated to developing the full potential of every individual through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

#### **Our Commitment:**

At the Y, we are committed to providing family-oriented, affordable, high quality programs.

A cause driven organization with three areas of vital focus:

- *For Youth Development:* nurturing the potential of every child and teen
- *For Healthy Living:* improving our community's health & well-being
- *For Social Responsibility:* giving back and providing support for our neighbors

The Y is a place for everyone. People of all races, ages, faiths, gender, abilities, backgrounds and incomes are welcome and financial assistance on a sliding scale is available to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

#### **Our Values:**

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

More information can be found at [www.ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org).



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