In light of the uncertainty created by the increased impact of coronavirus, closure of schools and the increased need to provide essential services for the most vulnerable in our community, we are confronted with a moment of truth. How best can our YMCA serve the community and support efforts to keep our community healthy and safe? For over 175 years, the YMCA has always been an organization that walked in the direction of a challenge. Today we must focus our resources on those who need us most during this unprecedented time.

In the near term, we are pivoting our resources to best support the most pressing needs in our community. We are aligning with our community partners to serve parents who must work including health care workers, first responders and "essential" employees protecting our community. These families need safe and reliable places for their children, and we will be there for them.

As of the end of business on Tuesday, March 17, our Y will close and suspend all programs except for School Age Child Care/ Schools Out and Early Learning Centers. We plan to restore full operations on March 30 in concert with the current school schedule. It is probable that this date will move as we learn more on the fight against community spread of coronavirus. If you are checking on scheduled programs and events at your Y, please go to www.kandiymca.org or our Facebook page and these will provide a list of all postponements and cancellations.

If you participate in before and after school programming that the Y provides, we are continuing these services. Please check our website for additional information. In addition, Schools Out will be offered Wednesday, March 18 – Friday, March 27.

If you are enrolled in the Y’s Early Childhood Learning Centers, our Centers remain open during regular hours and your child will continue to receive care by trusted teachers. If you have any questions, please check out our website at kandiymnca.org.

The Y will continue to be a collection point for Lakeland Broadcasting’s Annual Radio for Relief Food Drive. If you would like to support your community through a food donation, please feel free to drop donations off Monday- Friday from 6:45 am-6:00 pm at the main YMCA Facility.

Our Y team will be reaching out to our Silver Sneakers, Senior Adult members and Senior Household members to check in and see how they are doing. We are committed to the seniors in our community and want to let them know that we are here for them – always.

Finally, to support your health and well-being goals we are offering Y360, an exciting new YMCA on-demand fitness program for adults and kids to do at home. You and your
family can exercise together and have some fitness fun! You can access it today at Y360 On-Demand. Another resource is MOSSA Move, a virtual workout platform, that is free for you for 60 days. You can access this resource at MOSSA Moves. Please also check kandiyymca.org website and Y Facebook page for daily fitness challenges and workouts hosted by our Kandiyohi County YMCA staff. Also, for your wellbeing and mental health, we encourage you to get out into nature and to check out these 10 mindfulness tips.

We will also be posting on Facebook and our website, family activities and healthy recipes that you can do together as a family.

As you can see through these various programs and services, your Y is committed to be there for those who need us most and **we ask that you join us in the effort**. We ask that you continue to invest in your membership so that we can maintain vital life-changing and life-saving programs at the Y. If you prefer to put your membership on hold, please contact us and we will do that for you, but we invite you to join us in service to others needing our help. We know your membership is meaningful to you and that meaning lies in the relationships you have built at the Y. Those relationships are based upon how much you care about our community and want everyone to have the opportunity to thrive – no matter what our world is facing. Thank you for joining us. We are closely working with community leaders and will continue to communicate with you on when we will reopen the facility to serve everyone.

In the meantime, we hope that you will join us in our efforts to serve those in our community who need us most. Thank you for your support as we work diligently to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Best regards,

Jenny Holweger  
CEO  
Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA

Lynn Travaglio  
Board Chair  
Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA