April 8, 2020

Dear YWCA Members:

I hope that you and your family are healthy and safe during this public health crisis. We wish you continued health during this difficult time.

YWCA Greater Newburyport was founded in 1883 and has been supporting the community through a wide range of programs and services ever since. Our YWCA survived the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, World War I, the stock market crash, World War II and many more national and international crises. But in order to survive this one, we will need your help.

**Wellness Plan Membership**

As you may know, with most of our programs shut down, our revenue stream has been reduced by almost 75%. We have been fortunate that almost all of our wellness plan members have continued to pay their monthly dues. We ask those who are financially able to continue to pay their monthly dues, as they are our primary source of revenue.

Your uninterrupted support allows us to maintain our facility while we are closed (we continue to pay for some staff, insurance and utilities). YWCA Greater Newburyport will consider your wellness plan dues paid during this period as a donation to the YWCA, and we are happy to provide you with a tax letter to that effect when we are able to re-open.

If circumstances do not allow you to continue your wellness plan, we understand and will accept cancellations of your membership via email at membership@ywcanewburypor.org.

**How Can I Help?**

If you are able to make a donation to help ensure the long term viability of our YWCA, you can do so on-line through our Just Give button (if this link does not work, it can be found on our webpage www.ywcanewburyport.org) or by sending a check to the YWCA at 13 Market Street in Newburyport, MA 01950. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Fulfilling Our Mission!**

Even though our building is closed, here is a sample of the work still on-going

- case management support for over 100 tenants to help them manage this crisis
- screening 3 new tenants for affordable housing
- school age teachers reaching out to students and families to provide activities and support
- on-line Zumba classes for students
preschool teachers helping parents find age appropriate activities for their children
planning for summer programs
working with cancer survivors to help with their mental health

As soon as we are allowed to reopen, we will do so – and we will keep you informed of our progress. In the meantime, we hope you will keep yourself healthy by engaging in some form of exercise, talking with friends and families as often as possible and following the guidelines of the CDC to minimize the spread of the disease and keep yourself and loved ones safe.

Sincerely,

John Feehan
Executive Director