

3/24/2020 - Here is a copy of the appeal Chicago sent out yesterday afternoon, we sent it in conjunction with a press conference with Mayor Lightfoot and our CEO. So far, we've received 20 gifts totaling \$3,330. And in all honesty, I had no idea what to expect - so I consider every gift a big win!

We have also sent a separate email to our members asking them to transition their next monthly draft to an outright contribution to support our emergency response fund. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Katie Panning Spieth

Dear Y Friends and Family,

This is an unprecedented and uncertain time for our families, our city, and the nation. As has been the case for more than 160 years, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago continues to be dedicated to caring for those who need us the most in this time of crisis. It is this belief that has led us to step up and offer our facilities to serve as a place of shelter for some of the city's most vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health, the YMCA of Metro Chicago will shelter more than 400 homeless and displaced individuals. By leveraging our facilities in this way, we can help reduce the number of people who are gathering in our city's homeless shelters. This is just one more way to employ social-distancing practices, which are critical to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, the Y continues to explore other ways in which we can support the community, such as providing childcare services to the children of first responders. Our healthcare workers and the city's policemen and firemen are on the front lines of this crisis. Their children need and deserve a safe space to learn, be active and thrive.

As a friend and partner of the YMCA, please consider helping us provide these essential services by [making a gift](#) to support the Y's emergency response fund. Every dollar matters. Each gift makes an impact on a person in need. As we all try to adjust to these challenging times, your donation will play a vital role in helping the Y deliver on its mission of supporting the communities and the individuals we are privileged to serve.

Now is the time to stand together, because together we can navigate these challenges and provide support to those who need us most. Please stand with the Y and visit ymcachicago.org/covidrelief. Your YMCA will continue to do its part, as we always have done, to support and nurture our wonderful communities.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment.

Richard H. Malone
President and CEO
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago