

DONOR DIGEST

OCTOBER 2023 | QUARTER 4 NEWSLETTER



TRI-STATE GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

Siouxland welcomed Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds, Nebraska Governor, Jim Pillen, and South Dakota Governor, Kristi Noem to the 18th Annual Tri-State Governor's Conference. Many key leaders in the community shared their stories including YMCA CEO, Rhonda Robson. Robson was able to discuss the current childcare challenges facing our community and how the YMCA is dedicated to being part of the solution. Robson said, "It was a privilege and honor to represent the YMCA and childcare providers throughout our three great states. I was also extremely pleased that all three Governors appreciated the challenges childcare providers face and acknowledged childcare is a critical issue directly related to workforce development. Childcare is a complicated issue but if we all come together, we can find a solution."

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to grant funding and community partners, the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA has raised the funds necessary to break ground on the new Early Learning and Youth Development Center. To date, the Y has raised over \$3,000,000 of the \$4,600,000 needed for the capital portion of the Early Learning and Youth Development Center and \$70,000 of the \$2,000,000 operational endowment goal. It is critical to the success of the center to raise both capital and operational funds.

The Y plans to break ground on the 12,000-square-foot facility in April 2024, just in time to welcome the 2025 Spring class.

On October 24, 2023, the YMCA will host a capital campaign community kick-off event "Tacos for Tots" to publicly announce the project. Welcoming community individuals, leaders, and donors, the YMCA will share the project vision, unveil updated renderings, offer tours and enjoy tacos. It will be an exciting time to celebrate the future home of the Early Learning and Youth Development Center.





BBQ & BLUES BY THE RIVER



Thank you to all who attended BBQ and Blues by the River. It was a fantastic evening with a meaningful impact. The event kicked off with Blues music from David Zollo and the Body Electric. The band was vibrant and kept guests entertained all night. CEO Rhonda Robson shared the impact donor dollars have on the Y, including how preschool and summer camp staff are able to touch the lives of the many children the Y serves. Next, the evening moved right into the live auction. The auctioneer was able to excite the crowd and drive the bidding. Big items included a trip to Kansas City, a grill set, naming rights to the gym, and a premier parking spot at the Y. The biggest attraction of the evening was the one-of-a-kind painting from the Y's preschool classroom! The Y raised \$27,606.50 to support youth development programs at the Y!

PRESCHOOL FIRE SAFETY DAY

The preschool classroom welcomed South Sioux City firefighters to learn about fire safety. The preschoolers were excited to share what they knew about firefighters, including how many of them had fire trucks at home. The firefighters explained the importance of not being afraid of firefighters if they are trapped in a fire. The preschools even got to practice how they would call out for help. The firefighters then demonstrated how they put on their gear and gave the preschoolers the opportunity to feel their fire-resistant suits. Then, the preschoolers were all buzzing as they were able to walk through an ambulance and fire truck! Thank you to the local South Sioux Firefighters for all they do for the community.



A NOTE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Can you believe the leaves are beginning to change already? That means the holiday season is just about to begin. Fall is when I begin to reflect on my year and remember all the wonderful experiences and people who have brought joy into my life. Here at the Y, we are so grateful for our wonderful donors who give us the opportunity to support and serve our community. The impact the Y has reaches far beyond our walls, whether we give a child the life skill of learning to swim or help parents get back to work after the birth of a child. These programs and resources help build a strong community; we appreciate you being part of that.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generosity.

Lauren Owens-Wehr

Donor Engagement and Development Director

For more information about our Early Learning and Youth Development Expansion, please contact:

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September 2024 | Quarter 3 Newsletter



REFLECTING ON OUR GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On May 10th, we celebrated a pivotal moment with the groundbreaking ceremony for our Early Learning and Youth Development Center. Standing on the site where our vision will soon become a reality, we were filled with a profound sense of excitement and gratitude.

It was a day that reminded us of the power of community and the impact we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose.

As construction progresses, we remain inspired by the vision of creating a nurturing environment for our children.

Thank you for being a part of this transformative project. We look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating future milestones with you.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you! Thanks to your unwavering support and generous donations, the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA has raised an impressive \$3,923,587 for the new Early Learning and Youth Development Center. With just over \$1,000,000 left to fully realize this dream, we are closer than ever to reaching our goal.

As we move forward, the progress is tangible. The walls are up, and the concrete has been poured, marking a significant milestone in our journey. This expansion will open new doors and create opportunities that will enhance the experiences we offer to our community, especially for our children and youth.

But our work isn't done yet. As we edge closer to our fundraising goal, we invite everyone to continue being a part of this transformative project. Whether through continued donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, your involvement is crucial in helping us create a brighter future for the next generation.

From those who have already donated, we value your insights and ask for your advice on who else needs to hear about this project. Your recommendations can help us reach new supporters who share our vision and commitment.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay tuned for more updates as we build and grow. We look forward to celebrating each milestone with you and embarking on this exciting new chapter for the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA and our community.



**BBQ
BLUES**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 | 6:00PM

FUNDRAISING FOR SIOUXLAND YOUTH

Featuring Live Music from:
THE KRIS LAGER BAND

Country Celebrations Event Center
5606 Hamilton Blvd, Sioux City, IA 51108

This event is a fundraiser to benefit Youth Programming at the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA | Siouxland Y

Scan QR Code to purchase tickets
myymca.org/events/bbq-blues

We are excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser, BBQ & Blues, taking place on September 26th! This special event is dedicated to raising funds for our youth programming, which is vital to providing enriching opportunities and support for the children in our community.

Come enjoy a delicious barbecue, live blues music, and a vibrant atmosphere as we come together to support a cause that makes a real difference. Your participation will help ensure that our youth programs continue to thrive and positively impact the lives of many young people.

Mark your calendar and join us for an evening of great food, fantastic music, and community spirit. Together, we can make a significant contribution to the future of our youth and create lasting memories.

We look forward to seeing you!

Click for [Tickets](#) or to [Sponsor](#):

or
Scan QR Code
to purchase tickets



REFLECTING ON A GREAT SUMMER

As we look back on this past summer, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff who made it such a success. Our aquatic, summer camp, sports, and early learning teams worked tirelessly to ensure that every child was safe, engaged, and having fun in a welcoming environment. Their dedication to our mission and commitment to the children and families we serve has been truly inspiring.

I also want to extend my gratitude to our membership and wellness staff, who kept our programs exciting and engaging throughout the summer. Their energy and enthusiasm helped create a vibrant atmosphere that our members could enjoy all season long.

If you see one of our amazing staff members, please take a moment to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Their efforts have made a lasting impact on our community, and I am so proud to have them as part of our team.



A NOTE FROM THE CEO RHONDA ROBSON

As the CEO of the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the Siouxland community. Every year, our programs and services make a positive impact on more than 25,000 individuals, helping to enrich lives and strengthen the bonds that make our community so special.

The expansion of our Early Learning and Youth Development Center is a testament to our commitment to serving the next generation of leaders. I am incredibly thankful to have donors, volunteers, and staff who share our vision and believe in the importance of this mission. Their dedication allows us to continue providing opportunities that empower our youth and set the foundation for their future success.

Together, we are building something truly remarkable, and I am excited about the many possibilities this expansion will bring to our community. Thank you for your trust in us and for standing with us as we work to create a brighter future for all.

Rhonda R. Robson,
CEO

Thank you!