



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **We Stand With You** YMCA of Catawba Valley

At the YMCA, we work to create a community in which every person feels valued, emboldened and loved. Together, in the midst of fighting this pandemic and facing an incredibly challenging economic situation, we've all witnessed the tragic events in Minnesota that took the life of George Floyd and the reactions across the country. Like you, we struggle to make sense of the recent events and recognize the pain, frustration and anger that stem from our reality.

As a Y, we work to foster relationships and eliminate barriers to a better life. During the pandemic, the Y has demonstrated its true purpose – to strengthen the foundations of community – by responding to the critical needs of our communities, providing meals, child care, life-giving supplies and comfort to those who are alone. The Y is not a gym, a swim lesson or a basketball game - The Y is community. We are people connected by a common desire to create communities in which every adult and child has the opportunity to thrive. Though the pandemic keeps us apart, we have a responsibility to come together to stand up for one another and to grant each other the grace to share our views, fears and truth without judgement.

We are committed to working to address the underlying issues in our community that fuel racism and the hopelessness that can lead to distrust and even violence. Together, we can turn our empathy into empowerment and our pain into purpose. Lasting change takes a commitment from all of us. As the Y continues to be a beacon for good and for change, this quote again comes to mind: "Lighthouses do not fire cannons calling attention to their light – they just simply shine and light the way." As a part of our Y, our community needs you to continue to light the way. Now more than ever, it is up to each of us.