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**YMCA of Metropolitan Washington Calls for Community Response to Help Support Services for Those in Need**

The Y joins #GivingTuesdayNow in global day of giving and unity

**WASHINGTON – April 23, 2020 –** While the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington temporarily closed its facility doors on March 16, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not close its community support. Instead, the Y has been providing services to help support individuals and families across the Washington metropolitan area. On May 5, 2020, the Y asks for people everywhere to help support the Y’s work through a Global Day of Giving and Unity. #GivingTuesdayNow

#GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of giving and unity, set to take place on May 5, 2020 as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. The day is designed to drive an influx of generosity, citizen engagement, business and philanthropy activation, and support for communities and nonprofits around the world.

At a time when we are all experiencing the pandemic, generosity is what brings people of all races, faiths, and political views together across the globe. Generosity gives everyone power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on. It’s a day for everyone around the world to stand together and give back in all ways, no matter who or where we are.

“Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Y’s buildings may be temporarily closed, however, the Y is still able to be a force of good during this time of great uncertainty.  We provide critically needed services such as childcare for emergency frontline responders, meals and distribute groceries to communities across the area of need. The Y also hosted blood drives and conducts welfare checks for seniors,” explained Angie L. Reese-Hawkins, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, president and CEO.

“GivingTuesdayNow” donations support the Y’s critical work in communities across the Washington metropolitan area. For over 168 years, community support and volunteers helped the Y impact lives, said Genette Comfort, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, vice president of philanthropy.

People can show their generosity in a variety of ways during #GivingTuesdayNow, whether it’s volunteering for the Y, helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, every act of generosity counts. The global movement will emphasize opportunities to give back to communities and causes in safe ways that allow for social connection even while practicing physical distancing.

“As a global community, we can mourn this moment of extreme crisis while also finding the opportunity to support one another. We each have the power to make an impact with acts of generosity, no matter how small, and to ensure the sustainability of organizations and services that are crucial to the care and support of our communities,” said Asha Curran, CEO of GivingTuesday. “#GivingTuesdayNow is a chance for us to stand united and use grassroots generosity to show that we are all in this together, beginning to end. Even as many face financial uncertainty, generosity is not about size. From calling an elderly neighbor to chat to offering translation help; from showing gratitude to our healthcare workers to donating to your local food bank, every act of kindness is a beacon of hope in this crisis. We all have something to give, and every act of human consideration and kindness matters.”

Those interested in joining the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington’s #GivingTuesdayNow efforts can visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org).

For more details about the GivingTuesday movement, visit the GivingTuesday website (www.givingtuesday.org), Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/GivingTuesday) or follow @GivingTuesday and #GivingTuesdayNow on Twitter. For youth interested in joining the movement, visit [GivingTuesdayKids.org](https://www.givingtuesdaykids.org/) for inspiration and project ideas.

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**About GivingTuesday**

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past eight years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Whether it’s making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give. GivingTuesday strives to build a world in which the catalytic power of generosity is at the heart of the society we build together, unlocking dignity, opportunity and equity around the globe.

**About YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**
The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) for more information.