As we have done for over 145 years, the YMCA of Metro Denver responded to the needs of our community in 2020 as we faced the COVID-19 crisis. In March, we closed all of our YMCAs and cancelled our programs. Then, we launched into a response to meet our community’s greatest needs. With the support of our donors, we shifted our energy and resources to provide critical services including:

**EMERGENCY CHILD CARE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS:** As our brave first responders fought the pandemic on the front lines, we cared for their children with free emergency child care.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** As Colorado’s unemployment numbers rose to 11%, the Y did our part to meet basic human needs by distributing fresh, nutritious food to those experiencing food insecurity across the metro area.

**WELL-BEING CHECKS ON SENIORS:** Knowing our seniors were at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19, and feeling isolated while away from their Y family, we made wellness calls and set up virtual opportunities for them to feel connected and cared for again through the weeks and months.

**COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY:** With a renewed vigor to uplift communities, Y leadership, staff and volunteers committed to do our part to overcome racism and created a new racial equity commitment and staff committee to guide us on our journey to be agents of change in our community.

Even as our wellness centers reopened, we continued to offer support to our members and our community throughout 2020. We are grateful to our donors and members for their generosity!

**MEASURABLE, POSITIVE IMPACT:**
In 2020, lives and communities were transformed through the YMCA.

- **222,136 pounds** of free food distributed to help **23,114 people**
- **170 kids** of essential workers per day in emergency child care
- **5,300+ calls** with members, including seniors, to prevent isolation
- **2,286 lives saved** through blood donations at drives at the YMCA

“It was important for me to be able to rely on the Y because I know they are teaching my kids to care for one another, care for friends, be kind, and are learning good values.” – Arian Hilsendager, nurse practitioner, mom to Ryden (pictured above) and Reese
"There are people on this committee who are passionate, and they will be the mentors for the group of people coming up. I want them to know that they have influence." - Giovanni (Gio) Forrest, Experience Director and Chair, Staff Racial Equity Committee (pictured with son Oliver)

"COVID-19 has elevated the food insecurity that families go through every day. Those struggling to provide nutritional meals for their families are deserving people, and food is not a privilege, it’s a right." - Katie Canfield, Community Relations Manager (pictured: YMCA staff Lydia Pope, packing food)