

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear YMCA Families,

October 11th – Message #5

Never is the power of the Y more apparent than when a community is in need. Right now, cities and towns across Florida and the southeastern US are dealing with the historic flooding, storm damage and devastation caused by hurricanes. Hurricane Helene has killed just over 230 people across six states, with hundreds still missing. Deadly Hurricane Milton leaves Florida with flooding and damage in its wake from 18 inches of rain in some areas and harmful tornados. The loss of life, property, and hope has shaken our core.

Even through this devastation, YMCAs and Y camps are currently hard at work supporting their communities—even as they work to recover from significant damage to their facilities. Our Riverbrook Regional YMCA stands with them. For those members who have asked how you can help those affected by Hurricane Helene and now Hurricane Milton through our YMCA network, your compassion and kindness restore our optimism. You give us hope. This is how our YMCA brings lasting change to the communities we serve. One restored or newly created hope at a time.

As we see more coverage of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and Milton, it's clear that the impact is far greater than what we witnessed here at home. But our recovery continues.

It remains that our number one priority now is to repair the 50-meter pool. We have made a lot of progress behind the scenes. Exact measurements of the pool have been completed. These measurements were used to develop the design of the liner including placement of racer lanes and targets. The designs include locations for expansion joints, emergency pump outs, air relief assemblies, and main drains. We are beginning to see delivery of some of the liner material. The surge pit has been waterproofed and drainage piping has been evaluated with positive results. Prep under the gutter for the curtain skirt installation is 85% completed and the fabrication of the curtain skirt has already begun ahead of schedule. Prepping of the cracks began this week for the epoxy fill which will commence next week. And lastly, we were able to move the bulkheads out of the pool with a rigging system and not a crane. The team for bubble up is on standby and will need two weeks' notice prior to raising.

If you do not see workers on deck at the 50-meter pool, have no fear. Our team has been working diligently on your behalf. Because of their due diligence working endlessly behind the scenes we are swiftly moving forward, and we are still on target to have the 50-meter pool open at the end of November.

Our neighboring YMCAs in Darien, New Canaan, Greenwich, and Brookfield will continue to welcome our members to visit their pools. They have graciously waived the eight visits allowance for reciprocity to our members. Please show proof of membership from our YMCA and a photo ID. Greenwich YMCA will gladly accept our Silver Sneakers and Renew Active members.

In the spirit of community, the Wilton Y Wahoos came out in full force organizing an incredible car wash and bake sale fundraiser to support the Flood Relief Campaign. This exemplifies that our swim team is more than a swim team. Our young athletes taking a leadership role to raise funds highlights the importance that our youth programs are about building lifelong, healthy habits from the inside out. Thank you to our Wahoos for giving us hope.

We continue to work to provide kids, families and communities with the resources and opportunities they need to learn, grow and thrive. But we can't do it alone. We need you more than ever. Let's follow the example of our Wilton Y Wahoos and together let's dig deeper than ever before and be there for each other and for our community.

Warmly,

Christene Freedman

CEO Riverbrook Regional YMCA