



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT<sup>®</sup>  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear YMCA Member,

We hope you are safe and well! We appreciate your understanding and patience as the YMCA quickly shifted from our normal operations to aiding our community immediately following Hurricane Helene. We are excited to announce that we will begin reopening the Avery County YMCA Facility in phases. This will allow YMCA staff and volunteers to continue providing essential services and supplies to those in our communities recovering from the destruction and those preparing for the harsh winter temperatures.

### Our Response to Hurricane Helene

While the YMCA has been closed we have not been inactive. Our staff quickly jumped into action, helping establish donation drop-off and pick-up sites with the American Red Cross, Samaritans Purse, and FEMA. We opened the doors to our facility so volunteers and first responders could have a place to sleep, eat, and recover from the challenging work they are doing to rescue our community. The YMCA also began collecting donations from numerous places and distributing these supplies and materials to those unable to reach a designated donation pick-up site. The YMCA continues to operate a pick-up location for hospital employees and other first responders who have worked throughout the hurricane despite losing or experiencing damage to their homes.



### Reopening Our Facility

On Thursday, October, 10th 2024, the Williams YMCA of Avery County reopened the Lobby, Wellness Center, Aquatics Center, and Locker Rooms.

**Beginning Wednesday, October 16th, 2024**, the Williams YMCA of Avery County will begin phase two of our reopening. This phase will include, returning to normal business hours Monday through Saturday at the main facility, member access to the drop-in child care center, and many group exercise classes.

We anticipate opening additional services and programs in the coming months and encourage you to follow us on social media and subscribe to our YCMA email list to receive the most up-to-date information. At this time the YMCA is still acting as a home

base for many relief workers who are working around the clock to provide aid in our communities. As a result the Healthy Living room, Blackburn Athletic Facility and O'Connell Field House will be closed until further notice. If you have questions or concerns please email our membership team.

Beginning Wednesday, October 16th the Williams YMCA of Avery County will be open:  
**Monday through Friday from 5 am - 8 pm and  
Saturdays from 8 am - 4 pm.**

The Aquatics Center will be open:  
**Monday through Friday 7 am - 7:30 pm and  
Saturdays from 8 am - 3:30 pm**

The Mitchell County Healthy Living Center will remain closed until further notice.

Here is what you will want to know about our reopening procedures:

### Membership

- The YMCA will allow all YMCA Members and Non-Members to sit in the lobby and utilize our WIFI at no cost.
- We encourage you to come by for free coffee and fellowship with your YMCA community
- The YMCA will allow all YMCA Members and Non-Members to use our showers and locker rooms at no cost. We are asking for patience as the volunteers and relief workers staying on our YMCA campus are using the showers and there is the potential for loss of hot water due to high usage.
- Additionally, the YMCA is running on limited staffing and will clean the locker rooms as frequently as possible, due to the high traffic in this area we ask that you help us keep the space clean for everyone by cleaning up after yourself as

### Child Development Center (CDC)

- Hours of Operation include:  
Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm  
Monday- Friday, 4 - 7 pm
- Children may stay in the CDC for a maximum of 2 hours each day and is open to all YMCA members.

### Youth Programs

- All youth programs are currently paused, we will let you know when these programs are operational again.
- Due to the delay in Students returning to schools the YMCA will offer an Emergency Hurricane Helene Camp 10/16/2024 -11/05/2024. *Due to facility capacity limits this camp is being offered to students who are currently enrolled in our 2024/2025 Avery or Mitchell County After School Programs only.* Should this

### Wellness Center

- The Wellness Center will be open to YMCA Members and Guests who sign a waiver and pay a guest fee.
- Due to limited staffing the Wellness Center will not be staffed during all hours of operation.
- Wellness Coaching and Personal Training Services may not be available at this time and will depend on the trainer's availability. We will let you know when these services will be operational again.

### Aquatic Center

- The pool will be available for open swim only.
- Aquatics classes and programs will resume on October 21st, 2024.
- Aquatics Director, Faith Boyette will be in communication with parents and families about resuming your

best as possible.

change we will let you know.

lessons and programs.

### **Blackburn Athletic Facility & O'Connell Field House**

- All recreation programs and services remain unavailable until further notice.
- The Blackburn Athletic Facility and O'Connell Field House are currently closed to all YMCA Members, guests, and the general public as Disaster Relief and Recovery teams are currently being housed in these spaces.

### **24 Hour Access**

- 24/7 access has resumed.
- Per the normal operations of 24/7 access:
- Access to the lower part of the YMCA (locker rooms, pool, Group Exercise & Healthy Living rooms) is not permitted. We will be monitoring this and if you violate this rule, you will lose all YMCA access immediately.
- You must have an active 24/7 account in order to use the facility after the YMCA closes each day.

### **Group Exercise/Healthy Living rooms**

- Many Group Exercise Classes will resume on October 16th, 2024. You can download the current Group Exercise Schedule using the button below.
- The Healthy Living room remains closed to YMCA Member, Non-Members, and the general public as Disaster Relief and Recovery teams are currently being housed in these spaces. Please be respectful of this space as many are working at night and sleep during the day.

October Group Exercise Schedule



## How You Can Help

### Gift of Your Time

If you are currently in Avery or Mitchell County and you are able to safely leave your home we would love to have you join our staff to volunteer at one of the many donation distribution sites in both counties. To see which sites need volunteers please visit the [Hurricane Helene page on our website.](#)

### Gift of Supplies

Our community is in need of repair supplies and materials such as hammers, nails, new plywood, tarps and rope to help repair homes and protect from the winter temperatures. If you would like to donate these supplies please contact Trey Oakley, CEO at [Treyo@ymcaavery.org](mailto:Treyo@ymcaavery.org)

Relief Supplies  
Amazon Wish List

Children's Winter  
Holiday Amazon  
Wish List

### Gift of Funding

A gift of funding to our YMCA's Hurricane Helene Relief Support Fund will allow the YMCA to purchase of winter preparedness supplies and support for community and staff members who were greatly impacted by the hurricane

Hurricane Helene  
Relief Support Fund

*In accordance with local and state safety regulations, if you are not currently in the area please do not travel to or self deploy to Western North Carolina at this time. If you would like to volunteer please find an approved local organization that will be traveling to the area. This is the safest option for those not currently in the area.*

We are excited about being able to be reopening the YMCA in phases and welcoming you back! We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who continued to pay your membership dues in the midst of this disaster and those who have already made a donation or volunteered with us. We also appreciate and will continue to ask for your patience as our staff have also suffered their own losses during this time.

Please know that we are here to help and support you to the best of our ability. If you have any immediate needs please contact us.

Sincerely,  
Williams YMCA of Avery County Employees



Connect with us on:



Williams YMCA of Avery County | 436 Hospital Drive, PO Box 707 Linville, NC 28646

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