



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

Dear YMCA Members and Community,

I hope this message finds you safe and well. As you are aware, Hurricane Helene has had a significant impact on Avery County and the surrounding areas. Our hearts go out to all those affected by the storm, and we want to assure you that the YMCA is committed to supporting our community during this challenging time.

We recognize that many of you may have faced damage to your homes, disruptions to your daily routines, and uncertainties about the future. Our priority is to provide a safe haven for all, and we are here to help you recover in any way we can. Please email [treyo@ymcaavery.org](mailto:treyo@ymcaavery.org) should your area of Avery County have an immediate need. In the coming weeks, we will implement various programs and services aimed at supporting recovery efforts. These include:

- 1. Emergency Support Services:** Daily, we are deploying generators, Starlink systems, gas, food, water and hot meals to communities in Avery and Mitchell counties.
- 2. Winter/Cold Weather Support:** Fall brings cool nights to the mountains, and winter is on the horizon. We will be collecting hats, gloves, boots, jackets, and alternative heating sources to deploy in the community in the near future
- 3. Volunteer Opportunities:** If you and your home are in a place where you can help others, please reach out to Trey. ([treyo@ymcaavery.org](mailto:treyo@ymcaavery.org))
- 4. First Responder/Emergency Response:** The Y is currently housing 120 rescue personnel from across the county in the Blackburn Athletic Facility and 40 Samaritan's Purse personnel on campus.

Your membership with the YMCA means more than just access to facilities; it means being part of a community that cares. We are here to support one another, and together, we will navigate this recovery process.

As we assess the damage, community needs and plan our next steps, we will keep you informed about our facilities' status and any adjustments to our programming. Your patience and understanding during this time are greatly appreciated.

Should you have membership concerns, please email [membership@ymcaavery.org](mailto:membership@ymcaavery.org) and we will get back to you as soon as we are able. Please know that our staff suffered the same catastrophic effects as everyone else, and grace is appreciated.

Thank you for being a vital part of the YMCA family. We are stronger together, and with your support, we will rebuild and emerge from this challenge with resilience. Stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Warm regards,

Trey Oakley, CEO



Connect with us on:



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