

## A Message from Our Chair

February 2024

Each of our YMCAs does so much daily to strengthen the communities we serve, but once a year we highlight our statewide impact. Our Alliance's **2023 Community Impact** data shows that our Ys continue to recover from the pandemic with increases in membership and program participation over the last few years. Of course, this is vital to enable us to staff a wide range of programs and services, and this revenue helps drive our mission work.

Alliance CEO Sheree Vodicka and 16 NC Y leaders and volunteers will share this document with lawmakers and their staff next week at YMCA National Advocacy Days in Washington. I'm proud that our national legislators will see the breadth of our collective impact statewide.

From serving nearly 600,000 youth in programs to providing more than 1.6 million meals and snacks to them, we are often filling the gaps on nutrition for these youth. We know kids need healthy food to grow and thrive, and often the Y is where our youth are accessing food. Our work statewide in fighting food insecurity continues to be impressive as well; our Ys donated 1.7 million pounds of food, including more than 800,000 pounds of fresh, healthy produce. Children, adults and seniors all benefit from our Ys' work in hosting mobile markets, backpack programs, food drives and even Sunday lunches at one of our Ys.

North Carolina continues to be a leader among YMCAs nationally in collaborating with Medicaid insurers for membership and evidence-based health programs. Our staff team had facilitated a statewide partnership with WellCare of North Carolina to provide its Medicaid members with Y memberships from December 2022-October 2023, and they are looking at how we might work together again in the future. In the meantime, UnitedHealthcare Medicaid memberships have launched this year. You might be surprised by who qualifies for Medicaid. This is important work for our Ys.

Our philanthropy work across the state also continues to rebound since Covid-19. In 2023, our Ys provided more than \$28 million in scholarships and financial assistance so that everyone who wanted to be part of the Y could do so and benefit from all the Y offers.

As you talk with local leaders and legislators this year about your Ys work, share our statewide 2023 Community Impact as well. We are better together.

Lynn Lomax,  
CEO, YMCA of High Point  
Chair, NC Alliance Board of Directors