

THE WEST VALLEY FAMILY YMCA OFFERS CRITICAL RESOURCES TO HEALTH CARE AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS, THE HOMELESS, AND SENIORS During the COVID19 CRISIS

The YMCA has always found ways to help people and communities during times of crisis. The West Valley Family YMCA is continuing its mission to serve by expanding their most important programs to meet the needs of residents during the COVID-19 crisis. The non-profit is providing valuable resources such as child care at no cost to first responders, health care workers and other essential employees, access to showers and bathrooms for the homeless and wellness checks on seniors.

The West Valley Family YMCA has partnered with Valley Presbyterian Hospital to activate a “pop up” child care site Monday to Saturday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm at the hospital for medical care givers and essential workers so they can focus on fighting this pandemic and saving lives. The Y's certified childcare instructors create a safe environment for children to get help with school work and stay active while making sure to adhere to CDC social distancing guidelines. We are now working with other medical providers for care sites.

West Valley Family YMCA, 18810 Vanowen St, Reseda, has launched a shower program for the homeless allowing access to locker room facilities Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, over 800 showers have taken place. We will offer a touchless clothing drive to provide clothing items Temperatures will be screened and individuals will not be permitted to enter if showing signs of coronavirus symptoms. A strict code of conduct will be enforced to provide a safe clean environment.

SANITATION & SUPPLIES: Knowing that our region's unsheltered population is at the most extreme risk for contracting coronavirus and suffering severe symptoms and consequences, our West Valley Family YMCA was honored to be selected as a City of Los Angeles “shower site.” Opening our doors to those who are unsheltered will allow individuals and families a safe environment for personal hygiene and brief respite from the elements. While some costs are being covered by the city, many others have arisen and will continue to arise including expenses for supplies (towels, toiletries, and other amenities) and increasing labor costs as we bring furloughed staff back to ensure this much-needed program's success.

If you wish to donate personal care items ,please contact Brent F at the YMCA.

HUNGER & HEALTH: With all schools and thus Title 1 meal programs closed, we know that children are in imminent danger of hunger and malnourishment. Our West Valley Family YMCA has launched a non perishable Food Drive on Fridays from 9am -2pm and is poised to launch our “grab-and-go” food distribution program, in order to provide much-needed breakfasts and lunches to families in need. We are also sourcing and sharing critical products, such as baby formula, diapers, wipes, and bottles, for infants and young children.

Our next blood Drive will be on July 16th from 10am to 4pm & July 16th, contact the red cross for signing up. To date the Red Cross has collected blood from 95 different individuals at two previous drives.

With stay at home orders in place, many seniors are facing social isolation with little or no outside contact. As a result, The West Valley Family YMCA is conducting wellness checks on senior members to ensure their needs and concerns are being addressed until the order is lifted. The Y has created a new Senior Coalition with like minded organizations including support from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield’s office to provide assistance for area seniors in need.

“We are uniquely able to pivot at critical times to provide services the community needs most. I’m proud of our “can do,” “want to do,” and “we’re here to help” attitude that allows us to support our residents and keep our community strong during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond” said Brent Finlay, Executive Director, West Valley Family YMCA. “it is what we do now for the community that really matters” said Finlay.

The YMCA has set a vital Emergency Fund to provide assistance for the community and to sustain YMCA operations while in a pivoted operating position. Please help us at www.ymcala.org/emergencyfund click on West Valley.

The West Valley YMCA has been a part of metropolitan Los Angeles for nearly 60 years. When this crisis is over the Y will be there to help communities recover. Connect with a local Y and find out how you can support these programs. www.ymcala.org or www.ymca.org/west-valley Together we make possible happen.