

February 26, 2016

To our YWCA Santa Monica / Westside participants, supporters, and community,

After 90 years of providing programs and services to our community, the YWCA Santa Monica / Westside is sad to announce that it will close its doors on June 30, 2016. Over time, community needs and funding priorities have shifted. During the last few years, we have explored many options that might allow us to continue to operate and fulfill our mission, but in the end it became clear that our operation was no longer sustainable. We are proud of the exceptional staff who have served our community well. We are grateful for our amazing community of participants and supporters, and we will miss you. All of our programs will continue through June 30, 2016, and we hope that you will continue to take advantage of the services we offer until then.

Over the last 90 years, the YWCA Santa Monica / Westside is proud to have provided dozens of programs to empower thousands of women and girls of all ages:

- Children and parents have passed through our Cottage, Toddler, and Preschool program, enhancing parenting skills and facilitating creative social and learning opportunities for children—indoors and out.
- Young girls have participated in basketball leagues, father-daughter dances, Girl Central and other programs to bolster confidence and leadership.
- Amazing women (and even a few men) have stretched, breathed deep, and pounded the floors through a vast array of health and fitness programs led by stellar instructors. Some fitness participants have exercised on these premises for decades!
- Courageous young women have experienced new beginnings through our transitional housing and education program for those emancipated from the foster care system. They have earned college degrees, found permanent housing, and jobs that enable their lifelong independence.
- We have been able to offer affordable space to other sports, 12-step, exercise and community programs looking for a home.

As we prepare to close at the end of June 2016, we want to share our deep appreciation for your participation and support. We value the lasting friendships and relationships that were built at the YWCA and we will keep you informed of any plans for our members and supporters to say good-bye. May the legacy of empowerment, friendship, love, and community continue well beyond our closing. Thank you!

Best wishes,



Judy Spiegel
Interim Executive Director



Anne-Marie Spataru
Board President