



July 6, 2023

Dear YMCA Members and Friends,

My name is Jeff Darling and as the new CEO of the Sandhills, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself. Like so many YMCA employees and volunteers, I began my YMCA work as a volunteer coach when my children were playing youth sports at the local Y. In 2007, I made a change in my career, and joined the YMCA as an Executive Director in Long Beach, California. A few years later, in 2011, I moved to the Los Angeles YMCA and joined their team as a vice president. It was during my time there that I knew I would be spending the rest of my working life with the YMCA. The mission of implementing Christian values through programs that meet needs in the community is something that motivates and inspires me. I consider it my personal mission to create partnerships and secure resources so our staff can effectively run programs that truly meet the needs of the community.

Over the past few years, my children finished college, and began their adult lives. Their journeys began moving them further east, and my desire was to be closer to them. I knew it was time to leave California and began considering YMCA positions with associations that were in the eastern part of the U.S. that aligned with my personal values. When I was made aware of the YMCA of the Sandhills, and the CEO position that was available, I was very excited to become a candidate. I was absolutely thrilled when I was invited to come in as the new CEO! There is so much to share about why this YMCA was so appealing to me, and I look forward to having many conversations in the coming weeks and months with you, our members!

I am sure one of the first questions that comes to many of our members' mind is, "when is the Fayetteville YMCA going to be open again?" I will tell you, that in my first month being here, that has become my greatest priority. I have learned of the many challenges that this leadership team has been faced with, as they had to navigate through replacing the electrical system, rebuilding the pool, and dealing with many facility supply chain issues. I know there has been wonderful progress, and I can report that the pool has been completed, and now has water in it again, the electrical has been repaired, much of the plumbing has been updated, and we are working on the last of the facility repairs. I am working with our amazing staff team on the re-opening plan, and hope to have the official date shortly. As we are just weeks away from the re-opening, it is my intent to provide you with short, weekly updates, so you can plan as well. We appreciate all of our association branches and surrounding community partners with providing the Fayetteville members a place to continue their wellness journey.

I want to sincerely thank you for your patience during this long interruption! I truly look forward to meeting you and welcoming you back to the facility very soon!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Darling  
President/CEO  
YMCA of the Sandhills