



Dear *Supporter*,

It is difficult to believe that another year has gone by with the pandemic front and center in our lives. In many ways, things have greatly improved. The COVID-19 vaccines have allowed more and more people to safely return to work, school, and the marketplace. However, we still struggle with the economic burden that remains. Many in our community and beyond are faced with continuing health challenges and financial insecurity.

Although the pandemic is not the single cause of financial hardship for our neighbors, it has exponentially increased the burden on families already struggling. Many are low-income earners and single parents. They work hard to provide for their families but are forced to make difficult decisions every single day. Food, shelter, heat, medical care – what do they do without? ***You can provide a helping hand.***

As more parents return to work, the need for childcare grows. You can rarely go a day without hearing a news story highlighting childcare issues. Is there space in the program? Is it staffed properly? Does the program have supplies and necessary PPE? CYC is proud to provide safe, enriching care in our before-school and after-school childcare programs in the North Colonie, South Colonie, and Menands School Districts. Our well-trained staff provide enriching activities, opportunities for gross motor skills, homework help, social interaction and more. But a successful program requires capital. Many state and federal assistance programs that were designed to help families and providers manage during the pandemic have now ended. More families are now turning to local providers for assistance.

Although CYC strives to provide unparalleled care at reasonable rates, we understand that some parents just cannot afford to place their children in a childcare program. That is why we work hard to raise monies for the ***CYC Scholarship Fund*** which assists income-eligible families with the cost of childcare. ***Please donate by returning the enclosed donor reply card or by visiting www.coloniyouthcenter.org.***

The parents in need of help are your friends and neighbors, not strangers in a far-away city. Your children may play together, may attend the same church or social group. With your help, a mom right in your very own neighborhood can return to work to provide for her family and contribute to our economy knowing that her children are well cared for in one of our programs instead of being home alone.

Provide these families with a safety net by donating to our 2021/2022 Annual Appeal today!

As we close out another year, we thank you for your support. Please give what you can to make life just a little easier for someone else. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

The Colonie Youth Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit agency. Tax ID #14-1492095

Regards,

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President, CYC Board of Directors

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