Dear Community Member,

“Community means being together, helping everyone, and just making sure everyone’s okay. There are a lot of things going on in the community and I feel like we as AmeriCorps members, or LAYC in general, we’re here for that reason.”

- Carina, AmeriCorps member, Prince George’s County

For over 54 years, LAYC has kept our doors open to unite our communities, even in the most trying circumstances, providing a haven for youth, and offering a stage for them to express themselves authentically. Our five decades of shared history have created a unique sense of trust and collaboration that has withstood many challenges. This bond, which I consider the "heart of the community," is a sturdy foundation that has never cracked.

You are a crucial part of the heart of our community, and we need your ongoing support.

It is because of you that we have served as agents of change during challenging times. It is also because of you we can dream of achieving more. What do you do with a solid foundation? You BUILD upon it. To ensure that our doors remain open and lead to further corridors of success, creativity, safety, and joy, we count on your support of LAYC youth and families.

There is a long road ahead and we cannot do this alone. Together we have already broken ground by expanding critical mental health services that attend to heightened rates of mental illnesses. Our new food pantry and grocery distributions mean families can access free food amid the rising cost of groceries, an added burden that they shouldn’t carry. Funding from the Public Health AmeriCorps has also expanded health education, leading to communities sharing resources and information in solidarity. As Carina said, we are striving ‘to help out the community in every way that we can’. These programs and
services, which allow youth to fulfill their dreams, are possible thanks to you. Will you consider renewing your support of our young people?

Our communities thrive when young people are laughing, being authentic, interacting freely, and celebrating their accomplishments. Mary, a youth participant, details her vision, which we share, for an ideal community:

“No matter who they are, no matter what differences they have, they're able to coexist with one another, lean on each other, and grow as a community.”

This is what I mean when I say “heart of the community.” Caring for each other, thriving in diversity, even a simple smile upon walking through our doors, is what makes our community. It is also what makes you, those around you, and the youth that we serve, unique. We have weathered many storms thanks to such heart. Now it is what will take us forward.

As we continue propelling forward, our goal is to look back with no regrets. To ensure that our doors never close. To put our youth at the forefront of our work. To know that we did the absolute best we could to assist them.

When you consider making a donation, you can reassure Carina, Mary, and all our youth that the heart of our community remains strong.

With deep gratitude for your support.

Mirna (Lupi) Quinteros-Grady
President & CEO

Make a difference with your gift today!

Donate securely online at www.layc-dc.org, using this QR code, or by mailing a check using the enclosed envelope. Check with your employer about year-end gift matching opportunities to double your impact!