



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Expanded Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA

Officials at the Marshfield Area YMCA, alongside community leaders, volunteers, donors, partners and invited guests, officially broke ground on the expansion and renovation of the Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA today.

The re-imagined YMCA will help us serve more children and youth through: new childcare facilities including classrooms, kitchen and outdoor playground; and a new School Age Center for youth with homework help and recreation opportunities. A new fieldhouse will provide facilities for indoor court/field sports and a running track, greatly expanding opportunities for team sports and sporting events. More people will be able to achieve a healthy lifestyle with an expanded state-of-the-art Healthy Living Center (with 24/7 access), wellness consultation and fitness testing rooms, additional cardio and strength training equipment, and renovated exercise rooms. New social gathering areas will encourage conversation and bonding. Studies have shown that strong social ties can have a direct and positive impact on health and contribute to the prevention of chronic disease. These gathering areas are especially important for seniors and families alike.

“Another important aspect of this project is the partnerships we are forming,” said John Nystrom, YMCA CEO. “Through partnerships, more people in our community will have access to a full range of opportunities to improve their quality of life. We will work closely with the Marshfield Clinic Health System, Wood County Head Start and the Marshfield School District, as well as continue to collaborate with other groups and organizations committed to a stronger community.”

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“This is a big day for our community,” said Bill Sennholz, YMCA Board of Directors Chief Volunteer Officer and Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign. “We’ve had a vision for a better Y and stronger community for years, knowing the tremendous impact it will have on the kids, families, adults and businesses who call the Marshfield area home. This project is about so much more than a building; it’s about our commitment to our community for generations to come.”

As of today, the Y only has \$300,000 remaining on their capital campaign goal. “We are so grateful for the support of the businesses, foundations, families and individuals who have ensured we raised enough to celebrate this official groundbreaking. However, we are still seeking contributions to ensure the new facility will be all we’ve envisioned for our community,” said Sennholz. “We can do so much more together.”

Construction will begin in the fall of this year. The Everett & Dolores Roehl Youth Center will open in the summer of 2018, with the full project being complete by Spring 2019.

“I really believe that the expansion and improvement of this facility will have a transformative effect on this community,” said Dr. Susan Turney, CEO of Marshfield Clinic Health System. “Healthier people are happier people. When you’re healthy, you’re better at your job, you’re more present in your home life and you’re a more productive member of society. This facility can have a life-changing effect on the people that utilize it and that will be a boon to our whole community.”

Facility renderings, construction updates, campaign news and information on how to donate to the Changing Lives. Building Futures. Capital Campaign can be found at <http://www.mfldymca.org>

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The Marshfield Area YMCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across Marshfield and the surrounding communities, The Marshfield Area YMCA serves over 10,000 members and participants - regardless of age, income or background - by nurturing the potential of children and teens, improving health and well-being, and providing opportunities to give back and support our neighbors. The Y collaborates with 32 community partners with in-kind support through facility usage, access to training, partnership and free programs open to the entire community. Through public and private support, the Marshfield Area YMCA provides over \$130,000 each year in financial assistance and program subsidies to enrich the lives of children, adults and families who otherwise could not afford its services. For more information, visit: www.mfldymca.org.

