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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eugene Family YMCA Receives \$100,000 Anonymous Gift for New Facility Construction**

Eugene, Oregon — December 19, 2017 — The Eugene Family YMCA has received a \$100,000 anonymous gift earmarked for its Capital Campaign. Funding will support efforts to build a new YMCA facility at the corner of Hilyard and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue to replace the organization's current facility which was built more than 60 years ago.

"We're pleased this donor has chosen to realize their philanthropic impact through the work and efforts of the Eugene Family YMCA," said Y Board President Danielle Uhlhorn. "The Y has been providing services for healthy living, youth development and social responsibility for more than 130 years in Lane County and this generous gift is another great step towards realizing our goal of building a new facility."

The Y is the oldest non-profit organization in Eugene, getting its start on April 22, 1887 on the University of Oregon campus. In the years since, the Y has had various locations in Eugene including Willamette St., the University of Oregon campus and its current property on Patterson Street.

"The Y has long been a foundation in building strong communities," said YMCA Executive Director Dave Perez. "Our Y is the largest after school childcare provider in Lane County, reaching nearly 600 kids every day. This provides us with a great opportunity to help shape those kids and the rest of our community. These efforts, combined with our work in chronic disease prevention are positioning us for long-term integrated community health work and a healthier Eugene."

The Y is in the early phases of a Capital Campaign to raise \$26 million to build a new facility at the former Roosevelt Middle School site. Construction is fundraising dependent as the Y is a not-for-profit, cause-driven organization that routinely awards significant financial assistance to honor its mission and turn no one away from critical services for an inability to pay.

The Y would like to reach 80% of its fundraising goal before breaking ground. A groundbreaking date has not yet been set.

An average of 20,000 visits are recorded each month at the Patterson St. location and membership has seen a consistent increase, for example, senior membership has increased 35% this year alone. More than 50% of the Y's membership comes from outside the South Eugene area zipcode and we serve nearly 16,000 individuals each year.

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### **About the Eugene Family YMCA**

The Eugene Family YMCA is one of the region's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across Lane County, the Y engages nearly 16,000 men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than just our building on Patterson Street, the YMCA has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.