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YMCA of the Chippewa Valley to acquire Eau Claire Fitness

Contact:

Derek White
President & CEO
YMCA of the Chippewa Valley
715-855-6140
dwhite@ymca-cv.org

Eau Claire, Wisconsin (October 24, 2023) – The YMCA of the Chippewa Valley is working to acquire Eau Claire Fitness and convert it to the Eau Claire South YMCA, effective January 1, 2024. Eau Claire South YMCA will provide a wide range of health and wellness, youth development, and outreach programs while becoming the third full-service facility for the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley.

With the addition of Eau Claire South YMCA, the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley now provides the community with the Eau Claire Downtown YMCA and Chippewa Falls YMCA as full-service branches, the John & Fay Menard YMCA Tennis Center and L.E. Phillips YMCA Sports Center as program branches, and Camp Manitou as an overnight camp.

“We are deeply grateful to Laurie and Paul Powers, owners of Eau Claire Fitness, for their leadership throughout this process,” Derek White, President & Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley stated. “The Powers family are friends and supporters of the YMCA and we are very appreciative of their trust in the Y as good stewards of the business they put so much passion and energy into building.”

Eau Claire South YMCA will continue to provide a full array of fitness equipment along with programming that includes free group exercise classes, water fitness, pickleball, and much more.

YMCA of the Chippewa Valley memberships include competitive monthly fees with no long-term contracts, discounts on youth programming such as camp, swim lessons, and before or after school care, free group exercise classes, and free Child Watch for young children on Family Memberships. Members also have access to all YMCA of the Chippewa Valley locations, all YMCAs across Wisconsin, and most Y locations across the country, at no added cost, thanks to a national reciprocity agreement. The YMCA also offers opportunities for volunteerism, family fun events, and more.

The YMCA of the Chippewa Valley continues to look for opportunities to better serve members in all communities. Over the last two years, nearly \$600,000 of maintenance reserve funding has been used to improve current facilities. Parking lot repairs, roof repair, new lights and fixtures – the commitment is to continue to ensure the YMCAs are able to serve the Chippewa Valley for the long haul.

“We continue to seek out the best ways to invest in and improve our current facilities to plan for the long-term future of our organization across the Chippewa Valley,” White shared. “As we hope the Chippewa Valley will soon see, a strong Y is an asset to any community. It is a hub of family and community gathering; it’s a place to relax and reconnect with family and friends, as well as a place to be active and healthy in spirit, mind, and body,” White added.

The YMCA of the Chippewa Valley is now one of the largest human services organizations in the Chippewa Valley, with over 18,000 members. The YMCA is a powerful association of men, women, and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion of strengthening the foundations of community. With a commitment to nurturing the potential of children, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of social responsibility, the Y ensures that every individual has access to the essentials needed to learn, grow, and thrive.

To ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to be part of the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley, Membership For All assistance, which provides financial assistance to those who cannot afford a YMCA membership, is available to access the YMCA and its programs.

"At the Y, we work every day to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The YMCA provides support to families and individuals to promote positive experiences and opportunities through our Annual Campaign. When you give to the YMCA, you are providing opportunities for your neighbors to have access to the YMCA, its programs, and its cause," White said.

To learn more about the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley, please visit www.ymca-cv.org.

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About the Y

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community through programs that focus on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The Y has been listening and responding to the needs of our neighbors for almost 175 years and is dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected, and secure children, adults, families, and communities.