



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMCA OF SAGINAW AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION ANNOUNCE KIDSCAMPUS JOINT VENTURE

The YMCA of Saginaw and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region are pleased to announce that together they have raised over \$3 million of their \$4.1 million dollar goal to make their joint venture, KidsCampUs, a reality. Out-of-school time provides unique opportunities for positive youth development and learning and the YMCA and B&GC envision a Youth Development Campus that will inspire kids and teens to reach their greatest potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically by delivering high impact programs and services that improve lives. Working side by side, staff will prepare teens for college, offer ways for families to have fun together, empower all people to be healthier and strengthen our entire community. "Throughout the region, countless people know and trust the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs. But there's so much more to these organizations than one might think. Together, they are creating something that could truly transform Saginaw," said Herb Spence, campaign co-chair.

Planning for the project began several years ago and involved input from community leaders along the way. The two groups committed to the joint venture partnership in November 2016, and since that time YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs board members have been meeting to make KidsCampUs a reality. Community leaders Steve Kelly and Herb Spence are co-chairing the campaign, while Dick Garber is serving as honorary chair. Architects have been engaged and construction managers have provided budgets for the planned work. Construction has begun at Camp Timbers with groundbreaking expected to take place this summer at the YMCA and ribbon cutting at the Boys & Girls Club new home, next door to the YMCA in the former Junior Achievement building. Steve Kelly said, "these organizations work side-by-side with our neighbors to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. This

collaboration is exciting. It's fresh. Positive. An innovative solution to some challenges this community has struggled with for a long time."

Since June 2017, the steering committee has been meeting with area foundations securing their support. The committee is pleased to share the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation has given the lead gift, a commitment of one million dollars to the KidsCampUs project. Other foundations have responded proportionately and positively including significant gifts from Frank N. Andersen Foundation, Covenant HealthCare, Dow Corning Foundation, Huntington Bank Trusts, The Jury Foundation, Morley Family Foundation, William McNally Family Foundation, Allen E. and Marie A. Nickless Memorial Foundation, Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation and the Wolohan Family Foundation.

The project involves renovations at the YMCA of Saginaw, The Boys & Girls Clubs of The Great Lakes Bay Region (former Junior Achievement building) and YMCA Camp Timbers located just outside of West Branch.

A refreshed entry experience, and separate access to gyms and teen center will create a welcoming atmosphere and demonstrate to the community that the YMCA gym and other spaces are community assets and open to all mission similar organizational partners.

At Camp Timbers, a new recreation pavilion will amplify their impact, reaching more individuals through meaningful partnerships, and the ability to host multiple groups in camp simultaneously during the peak summer season. A new pavilion will also provide Camp Timbers with an appropriately sized all weather activity space which is crucial for effective programs in Michigan. An updated main lodge welcome center at Camp Timbers ensures the preservation of the focal point, the dining hall, which serves as a hub of activity at camp, and offers an inviting and functional space for structured programming, social gathering, and necessary shelter from the elements. The camp improvements are rounded out with new camper and guest bathroom and shower facilities.

Acquisition and renovation of the former Junior Achievement building will provide a permanent home in Saginaw for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region. Repurposing of the former Junior Achievement building will provide designated spaces for recreation and cognitive enrichment through specialized programs such as visual and creative arts, languages, STEM activities, music, and more.

For more information or other questions on the KidsCampUs project, contact Steve Meyer, Saginaw YMCA President and CEO at 989.753.7721 or for more information on either organization please visit their websites:

www.SaginawYMCA.org

www.boysandgirlsclubsglbr.com

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