

NEWS RELEASE



EMBARGO FOR JULY 5, 2007

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YMCA of Greater Seattle to Build Four New Community YMCAs Governor Gregoire's Visit to Shoreline Today Highlights Need for Youth and Family Programs

SEATTLE – July 5, 2007 – The YMCA of Greater Seattle today announced that it will build four new community YMCAs across King and south Snohomish Counties in an effort to address increasing demand for the programs and services that the YMCA provides to families and communities. Governor Chris Gregoire will visit the Shoreline/South County Family YMCA today to highlight the importance of providing communities with strong youth and family programs and resources. The YMCA of Greater Seattle is receiving \$1.05 million in state money, \$800,000 of which will go to the Shoreline/South County Family YMCA to enhance its facilities and programs.

"The YMCA helps Washington communities meet the growing demands and challenges that face youth and families," said Governor Gregoire. "Innovative YMCA programs in Shoreline have been a model for YMCAs around the country. Now, a new facility in Shoreline will be a model for communities around the greater Seattle area, reaching thousands more kids, families and adults each year with programs that make a positive impact."

In addition to the four new facilities, the YMCA will make major improvements to other facilities in the greater Seattle area through the "It's All about Community!" Capital Campaign.

"Demand for the YMCA's exceptional programs continues to outpace our region's population growth," said Robert B. Gilbertson, Jr., president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Seattle. "Families, youth, seniors and community leaders turn to the YMCA for new and expanded services, creating a climate in which many aging Y facilities must meet ever-increasing needs with insufficient space and resources."

The YMCA is raising \$48 million for the capital effort. \$27 million has already been secured through the generosity of a range of donors including local foundations, corporations and individuals. Apart from the state of Washington's funding for the Shoreline facility and \$250,000 to the Meredith Matthews East Madison YMCA, King County, the City of SeaTac, City of Shoreline, City of Lake Forest Park and other government entities also have contributed.

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The projects include:

- **Shoreline:** A new 52,000 square-foot Echo Lake facility in Shoreline breaks ground Tuesday, July 17, 2007 and is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2008. The new YMCA will be located on Aurora Avenue North at North 192nd Street and will have the ability to serve three times as many members as the current facility. Shoreline/South County Family YMCA programs serve the communities of Shoreline, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Lake Forest Park, Woodway, Mountlake Terrace and Brier.
- **Highline/Sea-Tac:** A new community YMCA in Highline/Sea-Tac will serve the rapidly changing communities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, Sea-Tac and Tukwila. Centrally located on the southwest corner of South 188th Street and 37th Avenue South, the new facility is scheduled to open in the summer of 2009.
- **Eastside:** Other new facilities will include two Eastside branches in the Coal Creek/Newcastle area and in Sammamish. Despite the constraints of current facilities, these YMCAs currently provide an extensive array of programs in these communities. With the increased investment in these new YMCAs, a projected 30,000 total communities members will be served by 2010, half of them children and youth.
- **Central Area:** The Meredith Matthews East Madison YMCA branch will receive a \$1 million renovation and expansion, including a youth development center, family gathering area and substantial remodel of existing public areas. These improvements will enhance services to more than 10,000 community members, 62 percent under age 18 and 36 percent of them on financial assistance or in subsidized membership categories. Construction of the new family resource center started in April 2007.
- **YMCA Camp Colman** and **YMCA Camp Orkila** will undergo a \$3.5 million renovation and expansion to support year-round camping and outdoor environmental education.

“For more than 130 years, the YMCA has earned its reputation for innovative and effective programs that bring out the best in people,” said Matt Griffin, “It’s All about Community!” Campaign co-chair. “With commitments to new facilities around the region, we’re on our way to providing even more kids and families with YMCA programs.”

For information or to make a donation to the “It’s All about Community!” Campaign, call (206) 382-5003 or visit www.seattlemca.org/donate.

About the YMCA of Greater Seattle:

Founded in 1876, the YMCA of Greater Seattle is the oldest human service organization in Washington State and a leader in providing innovative programs to build health in spirit, mind and body. Through its 15 branches, three camps and more than 200 program sites in King and south Snohomish counties, the YMCA serves 190,400 people annually with an array of services, including child care, parent-child programs, teen development, year-round camping, youth educational/employment programs, foster care, young adult transitional housing, family resource centers, plus wellness and fitness programs for all ages and abilities. More information may be found at www.seattlemca.org.

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