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YMCA Launches Innovative Foster Care Program

SEATTLE, WA 5/1/18 – YMCA of Greater Seattle is launching an innovative foster care program called Community of Fostering that will leverage local “swim & gym” YMCA branches to serve as community-based centers for foster families. Branches will provide local access points for foster parents to receive support, training, connection, and healthy living activities for their families.

Highly trained staff from the social services branch, Accelerator YMCA, will work alongside local branches to recruit, train, license, and support foster families. Each location will host eight to ten foster homes, which will work together to create and maintain a YMCA Community of Fostering. Foster families will have access to unique benefits such as free YMCA membership, mental health counseling for eligible children, and 24/7 crisis support. The goal is to recruit and license 175 foster families through this new model over the next two years.

“The Y is a community gathering space for more than 200,000 people in King County. Many foster parents and children are already members and we are excited to offer more support to these and new foster families” said Mark Putnam, Executive Director for Accelerator YMCA.

The YMCA of Greater Seattle has been a licensed foster care provider for over 30 years. By drawing on the more than 250,000 members of the YMCA of Greater Seattle, the Y is uniquely positioned to help solve the foster care crisis in our community.

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About the YMCA of Greater Seattle

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is the Northwest’s leading nonprofit organization strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Founded in 1876, the Y reaches more than 253,000 people of all backgrounds, abilities and financial circumstances annually through 13 branches, two overnight camps and more than 200 program sites throughout King and south Snohomish counties. It nurtures more than 142,000 kids and teens to develop their gifts and give back to our community and engages nearly 23,000 volunteers who contribute more than 372,000 hours of service each year. Visit seattleyymca.org