



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Media Contact:
Summer Zimmer
Kosciusko Community YMCA
574 269 9622 x34
szimmer@kcymca.org

A Brand New Day: The YMCA Unveils New Brand Strategy to Further Community Impact

Kosciusko County to benefit from Kosciusko Community YMCA's focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility

[Warsaw, IN] (August 10, 2010) – For the first time in 43 years, YMCA of the USA has unveiled a new brand strategy to increase understanding of the impact that YMCAs make in communities across the country. The YMCA has the unique capacity to address many of the challenges facing the nation today. Through its new brand strategy and framework, the nonprofit will extend its reach into communities to nurture the potential of youth and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being and provide opportunities to support neighbors.

The new brand strategy – the result of more than two years of analysis and research – was introduced on July 12th at a National Press Club event that included leaders from the philanthropic and nonprofit communities. As part of the event, the YMCA unveiled a new, more forward-looking logo that reflects the vibrancy and diversity of the organization, and a framework that focuses resources on three core areas: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. In another major change, the nonprofit will be called “the Y” to align with how people most commonly refer to the organization. Despite being called by its nickname, the Y is still based on the Christian principles its full name stands for, Young Men's Christian Association.

“This is a very important, exciting time for the Y,” said Neil Nicoll, president and CEO of YMCA of the USA. “For 160 years, we've focused on changing lives for the better. Our commitment to building greater awareness for the important work we do will enable us to expand our efforts and further strengthen communities across the country.”

Today, across the United States, Ys are making a difference in three key areas of focus:

- **Youth Development: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen**
- **Healthy Living: Improving the nation's health and well-being**
- **Social Responsibility: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors**

The Y is known for its programs in Youth Development including swim lessons, youth sports and gymnastics. Group exercise classes in Zumba, aerobics, and cycling are also well known as healthy living programs. “In Kosciusko County we are focusing on the critical need for support for those wanting to lead a healthier lifestyle through spirit, mind and body,” said Stacy Thomas the Y's Membership Development Director. “The Y's Largest Loser program is helping people in

our community overcome obesity by providing not only a facility in which to work out, but support and education to help them take charge of their health.”

In the area of Social Responsibility the Kosciusko Community YMCA will soon be starting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course to help those in our community learn “how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth,” and hopes to start more programs in the future to enable neighbors to support one another

The Y's former logo had been in place since 1967 and was the organization's sixth since its inception. The refreshed logo, with its multiple color options and new, contemporary look, better reflects the vibrancy of the Y and the diversity of the communities it serves. The new logo's bold, active and welcoming shape symbolizes the Y's commitment to personal and social progress.

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,687 Ys engage 21 million 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 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. ymca.net

###