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Malden YMCA and Medford Recreation Join Forces to Benefit Residents of the City of Medford

New Medford Youth Center To Be Unveiled at 30 Forest Street, Medford Square Thursday, November 29th at 3:30 p.m.

Medford, MA--The Malden YMCA and the Medford Boys and Girls Club are merging to give the combined organizations a powerful platform that will better serve the youth of Medford. With over 170 years of combined service in the community, these organizations provide diverse programming and unique opportunities for positive youth development and inspiration for kids and teens.

The "Medford Youth Center" will be located at the Gene Mack Gym, which is where the Boys and Girls Club has been located since 2001. The Youth Center will continue to be staffed by the current Boys and Girls Club staff. Administrative functions for the merged entity will operate out of the Malden YMCA. To provide even more programming for Medford families, the City of Medford's Recreation Department will be moving into the Gene Mack Gym as well and will host additional programming for both youth and adults.

"The collaboration between the Malden YMCA and Medford Recreation will add tremendous opportunity for our entire community," said Mayor Stephanie Muccini Burke. "Providing a central location for residents to learn, engage in activities and grow is the goal of our Recreation Department relocating to the Gene Mack Gymnasium. Establishing this Recreation Center will provide our community greater access to programs and activities for all Medford residents."

Says Deborah Amaral, Malden Y CEO, "Our goal is to provide the very best in youth development programs for children and teens throughout our communities. The merger of these two amazing organizations will further allow us to achieve this goal and will ensure that we are able to serve the greatest number of youth in Medford. We are excited to partner with the Medford Recreation Department to accomplish this goal."

Medford Recreation Director, Kevin Bailey commented "I am excited to have our Recreation Center at the Gene Mack Gymnasium. This is a positive step for the City of Medford to have our new Recreation Department join forces with the Malden YMCA. Together, these groups will make a difference in the lives of many, many Medford families and we look forward to a very bright future!"



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Adds Amaral, “The Y looks forward to working with partners such as the Friends of the Chevalier Auditorium and Gene Mack Gym, the Cummings Foundation, United Way of Mass Bay, Brookline Bank, Century Bank as well as other organizations that have supported the Boys and Girls Club for many years.”

The Malden YMCA has served the Medford, Malden and Everett communities since 1881. Most recently the Y provided over 3,000 summer meals in Medford, and since

February 2018, the Y’s Weekend Grocery Program has provided 776 Medford residents with approximately 14,500 pounds of nutritious food. The Y’s food program is provided to families at no cost. In collaboration with Medford High School, the Malden YMCA opened an in-school food pantry to serve high school students and their families. Additionally, for many years, the Y has operated the Medford Housing Authority’s Willis Avenue Community Center.

For over 140 years, the Malden YMCA has supported the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. From its facility in downtown Malden as well as community outreach sites in Malden, Everett and Medford, the Y serves over 10,000 individuals each year. The Y is committed to nurturing the potential of every child and teen by cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievement. The Y’s programs enable children and teen the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Founded in 1993, Friends of Chevalier Auditorium and Gene Mack Gymnasium is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to fostering financial and community support and being an advocate for the city’s historic theater and gymnasium in Medford Square. Through promotion of cultural, theatrical, civic and youth programs, the Friends strive to enrich the quality of life in the community.

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