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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

40 Years of Books – YMCA Book Fair

*Book lovers and collectors ready for yearly pilgrimage to
one of the Midwest's largest book fairs with proceeds
benefitting youth and literacy programs*

St. Louis, MO (Aug. 1, 2018) – The Gateway Region YMCA is gearing up for its 40th Annual Book Fair August 17-21 at the Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park. The fair features more than half a million books, CDs, magazines, and records. Proceeds benefit the Y's youth and literacy programs that provide reading tutoring and free books to hundreds of children and adults each year.

"Each year, more than 2,000 children and adults are served by literacy programs thanks to the funds raised from the Book Fair," said Caroline Mitchell, executive director of the Community Development YMCA. "Programs we offer include parent workshops that provide free books to families, English as a Second Language class and tutoring for adults, and early learning readiness and child development programs for caregivers and children."

The Y Read program, which provides one-on-one tutoring for children who are reading below their grade level, has been shown to improve reading levels by two grades! An average of 125 children received free reading tutoring through the program per year.

The fair includes a rare books collection, including a signed copy of *Danse Macabre*, first edition by Stephen King, *Charlie Brown's 'Cyclopedia* as a 15 volume set, and a signed copy of *Aretha* from *These Roots*, from Aretha Franklin herself.

Preparation for the event began in March thanks to the generous people of the entire bi-state region who donated their materials to one of the Y's 24 branches. Approximately 400 volunteers and 8,000 volunteer hours go into putting on one of the region's largest and most popular fairs.

Book Fair Schedule:

- 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, August 17 – Tuesday, August 21
- **Daily Specials:**
 - Friday, August 17 – "Preview Day". \$10 admission fee this day only. (Aug. 18-21 admission is free of charge.)
 - ***NEW this year* Saturday, August 18** – Family Day from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Meet local authors, enjoy food trucks, a scavenger hunt, family activities, arts and crafts and much more!
 - Monday, August 20 – Half-price book day. All books ½ off.
 - Tuesday, August 21 - \$10 Box Day. \$10 per box for all books in box.

The Book Fair will feature items priced beginning at \$.50.

Queeny Park is located at 550 Weidman Road, St. Louis, MO., 63022. More information on the book fair is available at www.ymcabookfair.org.

About the Gateway Region YMCA:

The Gateway Region Y is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Featuring 24 traditional Y branches in Missouri and Illinois, along with the Campus Y student leadership facility at Washington University, and the Community Development YMCA. Our Y also includes YMCA Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. The Carondelet Park Rec Complex and O'Fallon Park Rec Complex are owned by the City of St. Louis and operated by the Y. The Y is committed to serving people of all abilities. For those who qualify, we offer financial assistance so everyone has the opportunity to participate in Y programs, regardless of ability to pay. Our Y is a proud member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. For more information, please visit www.gwrymca.org or call 314-436-1177.

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