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***YMCA of Greater St. Louis Closing Webster Groves Family YMCA Facility
to Help Ensure Financial Sustainability and Better Position Association
for Future Growth***

Memberships and Programs to be Consolidated to the Kirkwood Family YMCA

ST. LOUIS (July 29, 2015) – After careful consideration and deliberation, the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis has voted to close the Webster Groves Family Y facility and to consolidate all memberships, programs and services to the Kirkwood Family Y.

“Like any organization, we have a responsibility to always monitor our operations to assure long-term fiscal health,” said Tim Helm, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. “Closing the Webster Y was an extremely difficult decision, but for a number of reasons, the facility faces continued annual financial losses which we cannot sustain. This action was taken to help ensure financial sustainability and better position the organization for continued service to the needs of the entire region.”

Membership at the Webster Y has decreased by almost 50 percent over the past 15 years and the facility has extensive capital improvement needs approaching \$1 million. In addition, the facility sits in direct proximity to two other Y branches -- the Kirkwood Y 3.4 miles away, and the Mid-County Y 2.7 miles away – making it difficult to retain and grow membership at Webster. The last day of operations for the facility will be Oct. 2, 2015.

“Despite this closure, the Y will continue to play a significant role in helping individuals and families in the Webster Groves community improve their health and wellbeing, and invest in their communities, through our other facilities, programs and assets,” continued Helm.

The Webster Groves Y branch has been in its current location since 1958, and merged with the Kirkwood Y in 1984. As a result, consolidating Webster programs and services to the Kirkwood Y is expected to be a seamless transition since members already are allowed access to both facilities and both already share many of the same programs and services, management staff team and volunteer board of advisors. The approximately 725 Webster Groves-based Y members will automatically become Kirkwood-based Y members, and also be given full membership access to the remaining 16 branches of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis.

YMCA OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

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The branch employs 4 full-time employees. Every effort is being made to provide opportunities for these staff to continue employment at other branches. The Webster Groves Y also has many other part-time staff -- like class instructors -- who work at other branches within the association, and they will continue to have those employment opportunities.

The YMCA of Greater St. Louis serves more than 100,000 members in the region. Closing the Webster Y impacts about two percent of the association's total membership base.

About the YMCA of Greater St. Louis

The YMCA of Greater St. Louis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It includes 17 traditional Y branches, two Campus Y student leadership facilities located at Washington University and Lindenwood University, and YMCA Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge in Potosi, Mo. The Carondelet Park Rec Complex and the O'Fallon Park Rec Complex are owned by the City of St. Louis and operated by the Y. Our Y is a proud member of the United Way. For more information, please visit www.ymcastlouis.org or call 314-436-1177.

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