

NEWS RELEASE

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Fond du Lac YMCA, Boys & Girls Club Achieve Capital Fundraising Goal

Officials of the Fond du Lac Family YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac announced today that they have raised \$11,315,000 toward the \$12.5 million capital fundraising goal to build a new facility in the heart of the city. It is expected that the remaining \$1.2 million needed for the project will come from the Kresge Foundation. “We are confident that we have now satisfied the criteria set by the Kresge Foundation when they awarded the \$1.2 million challenge,” said Adam Stone, YMCA board president and campaign co-chair. “Of course, our figures will be reviewed and audited, but we have every reason to believe that we have achieved the goal,” Stone added.

Three years ago, as the fundraising for this project began, a proposal was sent to the Kresge Foundation, a philanthropic entity based in Troy, Michigan, for a grant award of \$700,000. Kresge Foundation Trustees responded with a \$1.2 challenge grant based on the criteria that the remainder of the \$12.5 million goal would be raised in the local community. “We knew this was going to be a major undertaking,” said Stan Kocos, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club. “However, the fact that the Kresge Foundation was willing to invest almost double our original grant request was very encouraging,” Kocos said. Kresge Trustees cited the collaboration and the intent of the organizations to remain in the downtown area as primary reasons for their investment.

Both organizations attribute the success of raising such a significant amount of money in challenging economic times to the commitment and hard work of many volunteers. According to Marty Ison-Kocos, who serves as development director for both organizations, the generosity of the community has been overwhelming with contributions of many varied amounts. “Whether someone gave one million dollars, or one hundred pennies, every gift made a difference,” she said. “It has been a tremendous and inspirational journey, and there are some stories of exceptional commitment to this project by donors at every level,” added Ison-Kocos.

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“Our community is ready for this to happen,” said Greg Giles, CEO of the YMCA. “Fond du Lac will have a destination right in the heart of our city for all to enjoy,” he added. Since the announcement of the project, several other communities across the nation and from Canada have asked advice on how to get started. “It seems that we’ve set an example for others to follow,” said Giles.

Ground-breaking is scheduled in early spring as weather allows. Construction will take approximately eighteen months. Even though the process has been hard and long, those involved feel that when finished, this new community centerpiece will be something of which everyone can be proud.

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