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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**For Immediate Release**

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## **YMCA OF GREATER ERIE'S NEWEST AFTERSCHOOL LOCATION FILLS GAP FOR WORKING PARENTS OF KINDERGARTNERS**

Erie, PA – The Eastside Family YMCA has opened a satellite Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Center conveniently located at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 662 Silliman Ave in Lawrence Park.

The new state-licensed facility will offer before and afterschool programming for children enrolled in the Iroquois School District's 4-year old preschool and ½ day Kindergarten programs.

Combining play with academics, the Y's Before & Afterschool Program fills the out-of-school gap for families by offering enrichment through music, arts, physical education, sports and nutrition. The program is a great way to keep children safe and engaged in fun and productive activities. Trained staff members are responsive to a wide range of children's feelings, needs, cultures and abilities. They spend time developing relationships with families and understand that open communication between staff and parents is critical for the well-being of each child.

The Eastside Y's Iroquois Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Center will offer before school care beginning as early as 6:30 a.m., including walking transportation to and from school, lunch, and afternoon snack. The Center will close at 6 p.m.

Enrollment in the Eastside Y's Iroquois Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Center is required by calling 899-9622 and speaking with Director Linda Gehrlein.

To learn more about the Y's Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Centers, visit [www.ymcaerie.org](http://www.ymcaerie.org).

Editor's Note: Before & Afterschool programming for children in 1-6 grades and for Teens is also available through the Eastside Family Y and is provided at the Eastside Family Y, 2101 Nagle Road. To learn more or enroll, contact Missy Fuller, 899-9622.

*Editor's Note:* The YMCA believes that everyone deserves a YMCA experience. The YMCA provides scholarships for YMCA programs and memberships through its We Build People fund. Financial assistance for preschool is available for working families.

**YMCA OF GREATER ERIE WWW.YMCAERIE.ORG**

Our Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



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## About the Y

**The Y's Mission:** To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**The Y's Cause:** At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, the Y works side by side with our neighbors to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

**The Y,** founded in 1860, is one of Erie's leading nonprofits (501 c-3), committed to strengthening our community in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility:

### **Youth Development: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen.**

The Y believes that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. That's why, through the Y, thousands of Erie's youth today are engaged in programs that encourage Y core-values – character, honesty, respect and responsibility. Unique community partnerships with the City of Erie and the Erie Housing Authority serve Erie's most at-risk, underserved kids and teens directly in their neighborhoods. In our membership and program centers, award-winning childcare, before & after school care, summer camp, youth sports, swimming, youth fitness, leadership, mentoring and volunteerism, are all Y programs that are helping Erie's kids and teens reach their full potential.

### **Healthy Living: Improving health and well-being.**

Through advocacy and leadership, the Y is a leading voice on health and well-being. With a mission centered on balance, the Y brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun and shared interests. As a result, thousands of Erie's youth, adults and families are receiving the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body.

### **Social Responsibility: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors.**

Across Erie County, the Y helps people give back and assist our neighbors by offering them opportunities to volunteer, advocate and support programs that strengthen community. At the Y, we are volunteer-founded, volunteer-led organization. Volunteers are found at every level of the Y – in childcare, health & wellness, youth mentoring, board leadership and more. Through the Y's We Build People annual scholarship campaign, the Y provides financial assistance and income-based membership rates so that everyone can benefit from Y programs and membership. Additionally, the Y partners with other area non-profits enabling our members to support the community through donations and volunteerism.

**Involvement at the Y:** The Y strives to engage more people in the communities it serves whether it is as a member, volunteer, supporter or advocate. Each YMCA association is an independent, autonomous organization with its own governing board, professional staff and assets.

**The Y By the Numbers:**

The Y has 5 membership branches: Camp Sherwin, the County Y located in Edinboro, the Downtown, Eastside and Glenwood Park Ys. Eighteen award-winning childcare centers provide care to children as young as six weeks. Unique community partnerships with the City of Erie and the Erie Housing Authority serve Erie's most at-risk, underserved kids and teens directly in their neighborhoods.

30,000 people of all ages, incomes, backgrounds and abilities are served by the Y and Y programs. Financial assistance is available for all Y memberships and programs.

*To learn more about the Y, [www.ymcaerie.org](http://www.ymcaerie.org).*