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ONE FOUNDATION ONE FUTURE ONE Y

Member Consolidation FAQ JOPLIN FAMILY YMCA

Is the Downtown YMCA closing? Why?

Yes. The Joplin Family YMCA is consolidating operations to a single branch to better serve our members. The decision to vacate Downtown was made for the following reasons:

- The Downtown Y is underutilized and expensive to operate
- The South Y can be remodeled to provide state-of-the-art programming and facilities, better serving the needs of today, while planning for the future
- The South Y is located in an area of growth, giving it greater opportunity to impact more youth, adults, families and seniors

How can you vacate the Downtown Y with all its history?

The Y has stood at the corner of 5th and Wall for the past 90 years. It has served our community well. While it is difficult to announce that the time has come to vacate the Downtown building, it is important to remember that the Y remains committed to all people in our community.

Why is this happening now? Is it due to increased fitness competition in the market?

No. The decision to consolidate branches is based on the results of 2 external studies conducted over a 2-year period that agreed that it is not cost efficient for the Y to operate two full-service membership branches within 3 miles of each other in a community the size of Joplin.

When will the closure occur?

We anticipate the consolidation will be complete no later than July 1, 2017. Anticipated transition dates will be designed to minimally disrupt services.

Will jobs be lost because of the consolidation?

No. We will not eliminate staff positions as part of the consolidation.

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Who made the decision to close the Downtown Y?

The Y is governed by a volunteer board comprised of 15 community leaders who voted unanimously to consolidate the Joplin branches into a single, flagship membership center. Their decision is based on the results of two independent studies conducted in 2014 and 2016 that show it is not financially feasible for the Joplin Family Y to continue to operate two full-service branches within 3 miles of each other. The Downtown Y was selected for closure because it is very expensive to operate and does not have the infrastructure to offer state-of-the-art programming.

What about the therapy pool and other amenities that are currently offered Downtown but not at South?

The Y is planning to undergo a capital campaign to expand and remodel the South branch in the next 3 – 5 years. There are plans to build a separate therapy pool contingent upon the availability of funds; the addition of other amenities will be evaluated based on fundraising outcomes.

What if I don't want to go to the South Y?

The South Y has more than enough space to accommodate all of our members who utilize Downtown, and we will work to integrate the classes and activities you enjoy into the South schedule. Further, we are making an initial investment prior to a capital campaign in terms of equipment, Wi-Fi and aesthetics to provide an updated atmosphere that all members will enjoy.

Is the YMCA selling the building?

The Joplin Family YMCA is currently looking into options for the Downtown building. Selling the building is one option.

What are you going to do with the equipment?

Select pieces of equipment will be relocated to the South Y. The remaining inventory will be traded to the dealer and applied to the cost of additional new equipment.

I purchased a one-year membership and only use Downtown. Can I get a refund?

Y membership is not branch-specific and is valid to use at the South Y. As always, membership dues are non-refundable.

What will happen to all the programming offered Downtown?

We will work to provide minimal disruption to our members and program participants.

- All children's programming will be offered at South
- The pool and water-based aerobics classes will be offered at South – just not at same water temperature
- Pickleball (TBA)
- The services that will no longer be available are racquetball, sauna and steam room

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Why should I continue to give to the annual campaign?

Donations to the annual (sustaining) campaign allow the Y to make financial assistance available to low income families and children so that they can take part in the programs we provide. The consolidation of branches does not change or reduce that need.

Will my donation to the annual campaign be used to remodel South?

No. In the near future, we will launch a separate capital campaign to support the remodel of the South branch. Sustaining dollars are not used for capital purposes and vice versa.

I'm part of an organization that regularly meets at the Downtown Y. Where will we meet now?

Every group will be contacted individually. If there are any questions, please contact Lori Jones at 781-9622.

Does the community support the decision to consolidate Y branches?

The Y conducted a feasibility study through which it sought the counsel of 25 community and business leaders, all of whom have a vested interest in the future of the Y in Joplin, regarding the recommendation to consolidate YMCA branches.

A strong majority of those interviewed (96%) agree that the Y should vacate the Downtown YMCA and remodel/expand the South YMCA.

The YMCA board of directors evaluated our options and unanimously approved the decision to close the Downtown YMCA and consolidate operations at our South branch.

By consolidating our operations, we will be in a stronger financial position to invest in innovative programming and services for our community.

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