



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne and the AWS Foundation form Partnership to serve Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Fort Wayne, IN (March 17, 2015) – The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne and the AWS Foundation recently announced their partnership which will expand the YMCA's programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and other service providers. In an effort to support the Y's work with this population the AWS Foundation has generously awarded the Y a \$2 million gift to help build the new Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA. The first half of the gift will be paid in 2015 and the remaining \$1 million will be used as a match for the next \$1 million in capital funds. With this donation, nearly \$5 million has been raised toward the \$12 million project.

In addition to the traditional amenities that a full-service Y offers, the new Jackson R. Lehman Family Y location will feature a warm water therapy pool, and a 6-lane 25-yard lap pool which will both be accessible by zero depth entry ramps. Additionally, a sensory room, family changing rooms and adaptive equipment will also be included. The facility layout and adaptive equipment will provide recreational and social opportunities for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities that may not be able to participate in traditional community health, wellness and sporting activities.

"We are so grateful for this gift, which validates the ongoing work that the YMCA does with the special needs population in our current facilities. We want to develop more programs for this population in order to continue to fulfill our mission which makes the Y available to all", said Marty Pastura, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne. "The quality of life for everyone in our community is important, which is another reason the Y and the AWS Foundation believe that facility and program development is essential." The AWS Foundation is also funding a YMCA Program Director who will focus on how the Y can best serve the nearly 20,000 individuals with intellectual and development disabilities and their families who live within the service area of the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne.

Each of the Y's 8 facilities naturally serves the disability community through memberships for group homes and collaborations with other service providers. This funding will further expand the available recreational and social opportunities and positively impact more people as we take additional strides to make the Y available to all.

Fundraising for the project is ongoing with groundbreaking likely in the fall of 2015, followed by opening in the late 2016. For project updates visit [fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org).

### **About the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne**

The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne has long been committed to strengthening the greater Fort Wayne community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne serves more than 67,500 people across Allen, Wells and Whitley counties through six membership facilities, as well as two service branches and YMCA Camp Potawatami. To learn more about the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne and how you and your family can get involved, please visit us at [fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org) or join us on our Facebook page.