

**News Release**

**Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA Capital Campaign**

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**NEWS RELEASE:**

**MinnWest Technology Campus Gives Major Gift to YMCA Capital Campaign**

**Willmar, MN - MinnWest Technology Campus has announced a \$100,000 donation to the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA *Commitment to Community Capital Campaign*.**

Jim Sieben, President of MinnWest Technology Campus , stated “In a continued commitment to our community, MinnWest Technology Campus Foundation is proud to be a part of this initiative. We believe in providing a strong foundation for the next generation to build upon. By contributing to the YMCA Capital Campaign, we are working to develop tomorrow’s community and business leaders and strengthen the entire Willmar/Kandiyohi County region. We see the YMCA as a partner in these same goals.”

“The YMCA focuses on youth development, health and wellness and social responsibility to help us provide service to all,” said YMCA CEO Theresa Wittenberg. “We are grateful to the MinnWest Technology Campus for their donation to help us fulfill our mission. As a community leader in innovation themselves, they recognize that we’re not just building facilities, but that we build people through the programs we provide and a renewed facility will help us do that even more efficiently.”

The capital campaign is designed to provide improved programming space for the community with expanded access to all aspects of the facility. When the YMCA opened in 2002 the building was designed and developed for 3,000 members. Today, the YMCA has over 5,800 members. The funds raised during the campaign will assist in building additional facilities and space that will enable the YMCA to expand the number and variety of programs it offers. Specifically, for the expansion of the Wellness Center, a New Multi-Purpose Gymnasium with a Track, a large Wellness Studio, and two Racquetball Courts.

“We’re seeing even greater needs for people of all ages in our community,” said Wittenberg. “In addition to the rise in health related diseases due to the obesity/inactivity crisis for adults, the current generation of young people faces the reality of living a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time ever. We must focus our resources to make sure that kids, adults, families and seniors in Kandiyohi County have the opportunities to develop in spirit, mind and body through YMCA programs.”

Following a successful campaign, the YMCA plans to break ground for the expansion sometime during the late spring or early summer next year.

For Audio cuts please contact Theresa Wittenberg at 320222-9622