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For Immediate Release

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After School, The Y Helps Kids Reach Their Potential

Willmar, MN August 23, 2018 – A new school year is filled with potential—a chance to start new routines and habits, build new friendships and discover new possibilities and interests. It’s an exciting time for many kids, however—at the end of the school day, 1 in 5 kids do not have someone to care for them after school, according to [Afterschool Alliance](#), a nonprofit public awareness organization. As families are transitioning from summer to fall, the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA is offering programs to school-aged children throughout local community school districts to keep youth active, busy and engaged during out-of-school time. Through a well-rounded approach to youth development, the Y’s programs offer activities in a caring and safe environment during the critical hours after school. Whether through sports, mentorship, or academic support, the Y nurtures the potential of youth throughout the school year.

“Over 11 million children are unsupervised between 3 and 6pm, an essential time to help increase children’s success in school,” said Ryan Scheffler, Youth and Family Program Director, Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA. “Afterschool at the Y is an opportunity for families to ensure their kids are receiving additional support, continued learning and a chance to participate in meaningful activities that can inspire children’s motivations and help them reach their full potential.”

The Y is a leading nonprofit committed to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, supporting their social-emotional, cognitive and physical development from birth to career. In the YMCA’s before and after school program you can relax knowing that with us your kids are getting their daily dose of FUN, Homework Assistance, Character Development, Enrichment, Fitness and Programming Options geared to provide evenings as a family. Bus Transportation is included and features STEM based programming, Art enrichment activities, and Fitness and Swim Lesson add on options.

Careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) are projected to grow 17 percent over the next few years, and the Y is helping youth develop strong problem-solving, planning, analysis and decision-making skills to succeed in the classroom and in high-demand careers through

Financial assistance is available to those in need, to ensure every child and teen has the opportunity to learn and grow at the Y. For more information about the YMCA’s before and after school program, please contact Ryan Scheffler, Youth and Family Program Director at 222-9622 OR ryans@kandiyymca.org or visit www.kandiyymca.org

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