



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Robyn Hayes  
Marketing and Communications  
Director  
Treasure Valley Family YMCA  
208-344-5502 ext 282  
801-680-1135  
[robyn.hayes@ymcatvidaho.org](mailto:robyn.hayes@ymcatvidaho.org)

## ***Treasure Valley Family YMCA Will Open Newest Branch Debt-Free***

***Michal "Mike" Kapuscinski Announced as Executive Director of the South Meridian Family YMCA***



***(Rendering of the entrance to the South Meridian Family YMCA)***

**(MERIDIAN, Idaho) March 13, 2018** – Today, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA (Y), a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the foundation of community by developing successful youth, engaging people in healthy living, and instilling a commitment to social responsibility, announced it will open its newest branch debt-free.

A multi-year capital campaign successfully brought in the \$18.5 million needed for building the South Meridian Family YMCA (South Meridian Y) from Treasure Valley individuals, families, companies and foundations.

"The community's generosity is what allowed our Y to build this world-class health and recreation facility in a growing, vibrant area where south Meridian, Kuna and southwest Boise meet," said David Duro, Treasure Valley Family YMCA President and CEO. "It is truly one of the most momentous milestones in our Y's 125-year history. And, like all our Ys, the new branch will be open to all, regardless of age, background, or ability to pay. We want to give everyone the opportunity to have the Y experience."

Today, the Y also introduced the Executive Director of the South Meridian Family Y, Michal "Mike" Kapuscinski.

"Mike exemplifies the type of cause-driven leadership for which the Y is known in the community," continued Duro. "He joined our organization almost seven years ago. From day one he has demonstrated the ability to be flexible, intuitive and eager to take on new challenges. He has motivated and inspired those around him by supporting their strengths and utilizing their combined potential to provide customer service-focused, welcoming, and safe environments to our members. I can't wait to see what great things he accomplishes at our new Y."

Kapuscinski first came to the Treasure Valley Family YMCA as a volunteer before being hired in 2011 as the Aquatics Director of the Downtown Branch. While in this position, he was influential in the organization adopting the Y-USA Lifeguard curriculum for lifeguard training and operations. In 2013, Kapuscinski took on the additional responsibility of overseeing aquatics at the West Branch. Under his guidance, the Y was recognized in 2014 by Ada County Paramedics for its efforts in developing life-saving skills in employees and in 2015 by the American Red Cross with Hero of the Year awards for showing continued excellence in developing these skills.

From 2014 through January 2018, Kapuscinski acted as the Association Aquatics and Races and Events Director. This position afforded him the opportunity to lead a diverse team of 250 plus staff while being responsible for almost \$1.5 million in program revenue and \$2.3 million in expenses. He and his staff engaged over 10,000 health seekers in fun runs, races and triathlons; provided over 8,000 swim lessons to youth; served close to 2,000 third graders in the Y's Make A Splash program; delivered swim lessons to over 1,000 kids during the Y's spring break SPLASH program; and, developed the potential in youth through the Y's Lifeguard and Swim Instructors employment programs.

"This area has been waiting more than 10 years for the South Meridian Family Y. I am excited to take on the responsibility of bringing much-anticipated services to Meridian and southwest Boise. And to Kuna residents, too. We are only a fifteen-minute drive from downtown Kuna, said Mike Kapuscinski, Executive Director South Meridian Branch. "This facility will be the heart of the south Meridian and Kuna communities and our neighbors will be the heartbeat. The South Meridian Y will create a center that inspires connections, nurtures children and supports well-being."

The 60,000 square-foot facility includes gyms, pickleball and basketball courts, fitness areas, group exercise studios, youth development centers, family locker rooms, gathering space, and a four-level, all-ages, play structure called the Adventure Zone where families can bond together while being active and healthy. Charter Memberships are now available for community members wanting to join the facility, which will open in May.

"The South Meridian Family Y is where we will come together to create intentional and lasting impact for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility," continued Kapuscinski.



***(Rendering of the cardio room and four-level family Adventure Zone)***

The new South Meridian Family Y, located at the intersection of S. Eagle and Amity Roads, is part of a 22.5-acre campus called The Hill, named for the family members who donated farmland to the project. The Hill is made possible through a unique collaboration among the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, West Ada School District, St. Luke’s Health System, City of Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, and Meridian Library District.

This is the first YMCA in the U.S. to build a facility with so many partners. The shared campus will serve as a model for communities across the country by combining recreation, education, health, wellness and literacy in one location.

“This is a very exciting moment in our YMCA’s history,” continued Duro. “The South Meridian Y is part of something more innovative than anything Idaho residents have seen before. In fact, it is being watched across the nation as a model of collaboration. In a rapidly growing community, this facility will provide wonderful opportunities for youth, adults, and families in the areas of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.”



***(Site plan of The Hill campus shows the new South Meridian Y in yellow, Hillsdale Elementary School in blue, Hillsdale Park, shared parking lots, and spaces for the future aquatic center, west of the Y, and a library, north of the school)***

The Y, a school and health services are housed under the same roof and surrounded by a 10-acre city park. Hillsdale Elementary School opened its doors in August 2016 to over 500 students. An indoor aquatic center and a library are slated for future development. Reception areas, youth activity rooms, roadways and parking areas will be shared. The Y will provide gym space for Hillsdale Elementary PE classes, and the school will share classroom space with Y Child Development programs. St. Luke's will have 8,000 square feet of wellness space integrated into and co-programmed by the Y. Hillsdale Park will be used by all partners for outdoor recreation.

###

**THE TREASURE VALLEY FAMILY YMCA:**

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Treasure Valley Family YMCA works to strengthen the foundation of our community by developing successful youth, engaging people in healthy living, and instilling a commitment to social responsibility. We provide support and opportunities that empower people and communities to learn, grow, and thrive. Every day we work side by side with our neighbors to make sure everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to have the Y experience. Our Financial Assistance program makes this possible. Learn more at [ymcatvidaho.org](http://ymcatvidaho.org).



*(Rendering of a group fitness studio with roll-up doors to a patio)*



*(Rendering of the Youth Activity Center)*



***(Rendering of the welcome desk)***