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## **DOWNTOWN BOISE YMCA RECEIVES \$2M GIFT**

*Kissler Family Donates Millions for New Early Child Education Center*

**BOISE, ID** (August 29, 2024) - Today, Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, and the Idaho Workforce Development Council announced a generous \$2 million donation from the Kissler Family to support construction of the Kissler Family Early Education Center next to the new CapEd Downtown Boise Y.

This significant contribution marks the latest chapter in the decades-long relationship between the Kissler Family and the Y. Their combined story began in 1968 when the Kisslers acquired Norco and the Downtown Boise YMCA was built.

"In many ways, Norco and the YMCA have grown up together in Boise," said Nicole Kissler, Norco CEO. "We strongly believe in the YMCA's vision and are excited to see the positive impact this new Early Education Center will have on Boise's families. It's an honor to continue our legacy with the YMCA and support the development of future generations."

"The Kissler Family's remarkable generosity to the Y and dedication to our mission - over 56 years - is truly inspiring," said David Duro, Treasure Valley Family YMCA President & CEO. "This new early education center will be a cornerstone for our community, providing essential childcare and education services that will help families thrive."

In addition to the Kissler Family's donation, the project has garnered support from the City of Boise as well as a \$1 million grant from the State of Idaho's Workforce Development Council. These joint efforts underscore a unified commitment to addressing the critical need for high-quality, accessible childcare in the community.

"Investing in our children is critical to the future prosperity of Idaho," said Governor Brad Little. "The Kissler Family Early Education Center will provide much-needed childcare services, helping families across our state. We are proud to support this initiative that aligns with our commitment to enhancing education and community well-being,"

"This private/public partnership represents a powerful collaboration aimed at meeting a pressing community need," said Boise City Mayor Lauren McLean. "The Kissler Early Education Center will not only support working families but also contribute to the overall vitality and growth of our city. We are grateful for the Kissler Family's continued dedication to Boise and for their substantial investment in our community's future."

## **COMMUNITY NEED**

The pandemic exacerbated the already critical shortage of affordable and accessible childcare, a barrier that prevents many parents from remaining in or re-entering the workforce. According to the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children: 91% of childcare centers in Idaho operate at reduced capacities, more than 200 centers closed due to COVID, and 30% of those closures were early childhood centers.

The Kissler Family Early Education Center will provide much-needed relief by **doubling** the YMCA's childcare capacity in the downtown area, offering 123 seats for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old.

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

- Since its founding in **1891**, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA has been the heart of the downtown Boise community.
- In **1978**, the Y began offering childcare programs.
- In **2024**, the Y cares for more youth than any other non-profit organization in Idaho.
- There are more than **40,000** participants annually in the Y's comprehensive youth services.
- Plus another **2,500** participants through its **31** licensed childcare sites in Ada and Canyon Counties.

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The new CapEd Downtown Boise Y, part of a larger mixed-use, multi-partner redevelopment project, will be a 109,000 square foot facility designed to meet the community's evolving needs. The Y will purchase a 10,000 square foot space where the Kissler Family Early Education Center will be located via a condominium agreement.

This convenient space is located on the street level of the multi-purpose mobility hub as a part of the Y's partnership with CCDC and others. This project, strategically located near key residential and business areas, aims to serve a diverse population and create a center of opportunity and wellness.

"Together, with the support from the City of Boise and the State of Idaho, we are creating a brighter future for our children and their families," said Duro.

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## **ABOUT THE TREASURE VALLEY YMCA**

Established in 1891, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA (the Y) is a cause-driven, nonprofit organization that works to strengthen the foundation of our community by developing successful youth, engaging people in healthy living and instilling a commitment to social responsibility. Annually, it operates over 100 programs that serve 110,000 youth and families throughout its 4 facilities, 440-acre summer camp and over 30 child development sites. The Y believes all people deserve the chance to achieve their highest potential; therefore, it does not turn anyone away due to an inability to pay. The Treasure Valley Family YMCA provides over \$4 million in financial assistance every year so all may participate in our life-changing programs and services.  
[www.ymcatvidaho.org](http://www.ymcatvidaho.org)

## **ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN BOISE YMCA**

The Downtown YMCA in Boise serves as a cornerstone of the community, offering a diverse range of programs and services aimed at promoting physical, mental, and social well-being. With its forthcoming redevelopment, the YMCA seeks to enhance its capacity to empower individuals and families to thrive.