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YMCA RESPONDS TO COVID-19 COMMUNITY NEED

YMCA of Silicon Valley evolves service delivery to support coronavirus relief efforts across the bay area

Santa Clara, CA - 03/23/20 – Coming together as a community during this uncertain time is more important than ever. While “Shelter-in-Place” orders given on March 17th keep us from opening our facilities and after school programs to deliver typical programs and services, YMCA of Silicon Valley is offering emergency services and programs to those who need it most through this challenging health crisis.

Recognized as one of the strongest community service organizations in the area, YMCA of Silicon Valley was prepared to respond when government officials and healthcare providers called upon us to be a partner in the response to COVID-19. The Y is proud to continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our community; in this case redeploying our wellness facilities and several of our school sites to be Community Response Centers.

While services are developing and growing each day, early examples include:

- **Critical Care for Essential Workers’ Children** – We are working with hospitals, medical providers, first responders, and municipalities to repurpose our staff and facilities to provide emergency care for the children of medical providers and first responders. Starting on March 23, two sites with the collective capacity to serve 200 children will open at our El Camino YMCA and the Morgan Hill Unified School District. A third site will open on March 30 at our Southwest YMCA. These care centers will follow strict guidelines in accordance with the Public Health Department. As the need and funding becomes available, we anticipate additional facilities and staff will be redeployed to open even more sites.
- **Child Nutrition Sites** – When schools closed, many children and families lost access to healthy meals. The Y quickly partnered with Child Nutrition Services, Second Harvest Food Bank, and several schools to distribute essential food to children and families in need through “drive-up and pick-up” stations. Today, 20 sites are providing more than 6,000 healthy meals daily – and this number is growing every day.
- **Blood Donation Stations** – The Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage of lifesaving blood. We’re currently working with the Red Cross to set-up stations for individuals to donate blood. The first station is anticipated to open at our South Valley branch within the coming week.



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- **Hot and Healthy Meals for Seniors** – The Y is ensuring that our most vulnerable population impacted by COVID-19, older adults, still have access to healthy meals. Staff teams are making home-cooked meals, packaging them, and running them out to the cars of mobile adults and caretakers. More than 120 meals are currently being distributed daily at sites in Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

YMCA of Silicon Valley is honored to provide these critical services, as they embody the heart and soul of the Y organization. The Y is grateful to generous donors and to many loyal members who have opted to continue paying their monthly dues in the form of a tax-deductible donation for COVID-19 response centers and general operating expenses.

Stay up to date on all the ways we are supporting our community through this health crisis at ymcasv.org.

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About the YMCA of Silicon Valley

YMCA of Silicon Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit strengthening community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, YMCA of Silicon Valley serves 250,000 members and participants — regardless of age, income or background —by nurturing the potential of children and teens, improving health and well-being, and providing opportunities to give back and support our neighbors. The organization collaborates with 190 community partners and delivers programs and services at 10 health and wellness facilities, a resident camp and more than 300 school and community sites. Last year, YMCA of Silicon Valley leveraged more than \$17 million in support from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies to enrich the lives of children, adults and families who otherwise could not afford its services. For more information, visit: www.ymcasv.org.