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YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE AWARDED \$82,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Fort Wayne, IN (July 17, 2024) AWS Foundation has awarded the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne \$82,000 in grant money over two years to support operating costs for adaptive and inclusive programs. The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne provides a wide array of inclusive and adaptive programs from infants to seniors, including the popular Trail Buddies program, sensory areas, zero-depth entry pools, and specialized exercise equipment. Funds will go towards removing barriers for everyone in our community by creating additional adaptive programs, expanded employee training, and increasing fitness access points throughout the community – all within the Y’s strategic goal of moving Fort Wayne to becoming a top-10 healthiest community.

“AWS Foundation continues to be a driving force behind the YMCA’s adaptive programming and accessibly built environment. We are grateful for their continued support, thoughtful guidance, and unwavering encouragement to ensure the YMCA remains a place for ALL,” says Andrew Gritzmaker, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne. “This gift will ensure we inch ever closer to our shared vision in which every member of our community can actualize their potential.”

“Adaptive services at the YMCA not only provide recreation opportunities for **everyone** in the family who may have a member with a disability, but also allow those living in group and supported living homes to get out into the community,” says Patti Hays, AWS Foundation CEO. “These programs have become a vital resource for people with disabilities to stay healthy.”

For a complete list of adaptive and inclusive programs, facilities, and equipment available through the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, visit fwymca.org/program-registration/adaptive-inclusive.

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ABOUT THE YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE: *The mission of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. For over 160 years, the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne has been committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility serving more than 144,000 people annually across Allen, Wells, and Whitley counties through eight membership facilities, as well as three youth serving branches, YMCA Youth Service Bureau, YMCA Child Care Services and YMCA Camp Potawotami. To learn more about the Y please visit www.fwymca.org or email HereForYou@fwymca.org.*

Our Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

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