



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EVERETT, WASHINGTON, March 24, 2020 – The shutdown of schools across the county meant that first responders, medical professionals and other critical service providers with school age children would need to find alternate child care in order to go to work. Additionally, many children and families face food insecurity when meals provided through the schools are no longer available. With a 120 year history of identifying and meeting the needs of the community, **the YMCA has stepped up launching its Emergency Camp for Countywide School Closure and expanding Early Childhood Education care.**

The YMCA of Snohomish County is the largest provider of quality child care in the county. During this time of countywide school closures, the YMCA is working in close partnership with 8 regional school districts to ensure children are engaged in quality, supportive care while parents and care providers continue working. Currently, **10 sites are providing children ages 5 to 13 years all-day care** with camp-style curriculum, breakfast, lunch, and two snacks each day. The YMCA Heatherwood **Early Childhood Education Center** is also available to working families who have **children ages 3 months to pre-kindergarten**. All of our child care sites adhere to the highest state licensing standards and are staffed by YMCA child care professionals. Sites also adhere to the most current health and safety recommendations issued by the Snohomish County Health Department and CDC to combat the spread of COVID-19.

All YMCA Child Care programs are **accepting new registrations**. There is **no cost to first responders or health care workers** who need this care for their children. **Direct financial assistance is available** to all other parents and care providers in need of child care if the daily rate of \$45 is prohibitive. **Registration and additional information is available** on the YMCA of Snohomish County's COVID web page: ymca-snoco.org/covid.

If you would like to support the YMCA's ongoing effort to meet the needs of the community, please donate online at ymca-snoco.org/donate. If you would like more information about the positive impact the Y is having throughout Snohomish County during the COVID-19 outbreak, please contact the YMCA's Chief Development Officer, Jennifer Willows at jwillows@ymca-snoco.org or 425 374 5745.

The YMCA is a cause-driven organization focused on three key areas: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA believes a strong community can be achieved when we invest in our kids, our health, and our neighbors. Its programs, services, and initiatives enable youth to realize their potential, offer families ways to have fun together, empower people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body, welcome and embrace newcomers and help foster social responsibility. In Snohomish County, the Y has been serving and strengthening the community since 1901.

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YMCA OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY

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