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**YMCA Opens Several Branches and Program Centers in Maryland to Provide Day Care for Essential Workers**

Helping those in the community delivering critical services at this time

**WASHINGTON – April 2, 2020 –** The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington has opened several of its branches and program centers in order to provide emergency childcare support for those in the community who are delivering critical services at this time.

YMCA Ayrlawn (5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda, Md. 20817) will be open to take children 4-12 years of age; YMCA Silver Spring (9800 Hastings Dr., Silver Spring, Md. 20901) will take children 2-5 years of age; and YMCA Prince George’s County (at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6600 Laurel Bowie Rd., Bowie, Md. 20715) will take children ages 4 to 12. The locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (schedule may change and expand depending on need, please check [ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildcare](http://www.ymcadc.org/emergencychildcare).) As the pandemic continues, the Y hopes to be able to open other centers.

“Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Y’s buildings may be temporarily closed, but the Y will continue to be a force of good during this time of great uncertainty.  We will provide critically needed services such as childcare for emergency frontline responders. In addition to grocery distribution, the Y is also hosting blood drives and conducting welfare checks for seniors,” explained Angie L. Reese-Hawkins, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, president and CEO.

Reese-Hawkins continued, “Members of the Y help support critical community services, that’s why their membership is important. Being a member of the Y is joining a worthy cause.  We ask members to stay with us during this time.  The Y is here to serve and strengthen the community.”

Regarding childcare for emergency workers, Reese-Hawkins advised parents, who are essential workers in other areas of the Washington, D.C. region, to check the website, [**www.ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildcare**](http://www.ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildcare), regularly for other locations and hours.

YMCA staff have thoroughly cleaned, and will continue to clean, the participating facilities throughout the day and each evening and they’ll conduct a health screening of each child and care giver arriving at each facility. Children will be provided with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

Space is limited at each site and available on a first-come, first-served drop-in basis for essential workers only. To register, go to [www.ymcadc.com/EmergencyChildCare](http://www.ymcadc.com/EmergencyChildCare). Parents will need to provide proof that they’re an essential worker and provide a work schedule.

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**About YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**
The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) for more information. Members are asked to stay with the Y during this critical time to maintain charitable services for every community. #StayWithUs