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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The DeWitt YMCA to close facility permanently effective May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

[Lansing, Michigan] – The YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing Association is sad to announce that they will be closing our DeWitt YMCA branch permanently effective May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The decision came after a vote from the Board of Directors to not renew the lease that is up on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. “This was not an easy decision for our Board of Directors, who are a dedicated group of community leaders who embody the mission of the organization. They realize that all our branch locations are valuable centers in our community.” said Heather Cooper Kim, Chief Volunteer Officer for the YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing.

The DeWitt Y has operated under financial hardship for a number of years even prior to the pandemic with declining membership and facility usage. The economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic has made these hardships insurmountable to the point where it is no longer possible to sustain operations.

The DeWitt Y site had been offering wellness and fitness programs including Silver Sneakers for seniors, group fitness classes, child watch and summer camp since it opened its doors in 2007.

“The YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing was proud to operate the DeWitt YMCA branch from 2007 to 2022” said Casey Thompson President and CEO “Unfortunately, in the post-COVID economy, it is no longer possible for the DeWitt Y.” “While we are disheartened by this closure, we are proud of all we have accomplished in the 15 years we have been here.” Said Thompson

“The Y would like to thank DeWitt for its dedicated staff, members, quality programming and annual support. Together, we have nurtured the potential of children, enhanced health and provided vital services to the community” said Casey.

All DeWitt YMCA memberships will be honored up until the time of our closure, and refunds will be provided to those members who wish to discontinue services now and/or for any prepaid balance on any annual membership. Members can also transfer their membership to other

YMCA of Lansing locations (Parkwood YMCA, Oak Park YMCA, or Westside YMCA). All active DeWitt YMCA employees will be compensated through May 31<sup>st</sup> and arrangements are being made to transition them to other YMCA of Lansing locations.

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***About the Y***

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. [ymca.net](http://ymca.net)