

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA of Greater Toledo Announces their NEW Name: “YWCA of Northwest Ohio”

Monday, November 21, 2011

In a move to expand and strengthen services to women in the Northwest Ohio region, YWCA of Greater Toledo and YWCA Lima announce a merger and the formation of “YWCA of Northwest Ohio.”

The merger was announced by Lisa McDuffie, the President and CEO of YWCA in Toledo, Robin Johnson, Chair of YWCA Lima Board of Trustees and Sally DePerro, Chair of YWCA Toledo Board of Directors.

“YWCA Northwest Ohio was formed by the merger of the two organizations in order to create a larger entity with the resources and reach to serve the mission of the YWCA USA more fully,” McDuffie and Johnson explained in a joint statement. “The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. YWCA of Northwest Ohio will have the financial, human, and programmatic resources to pursue this mission with increased efficiency and focus.”

The new organization will be led by Lisa McDuffie, President and CEO, and Sally DePerro, Chair of the Board of Trustees. The headquarters of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio is located in Toledo, which will continue its mission based programs such as The Battered Women’s Shelter, H.O.P.E. Center (Rape Crisis), Permanent Housing, Healthy Connections, and Youth Development. The ‘hands on’ services available in the Lima area, include the existing YWCA programs of Child Care Resource and Referral, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The Lima office is located in the United Way Building, 616 S. Collett Street.

Additionally, a Lima/Allen County Advisory Team will be formed to advise YWCA Northwest Ohio about local needs and recommend actions regarding planning for additional YWCA mission-based activities, projects and programs in the area.

The Advisory Team’s role will include assisting with development of the community roll-out of new YWCA endeavors in the area, as well as develop and conduct fund raising events to support local program and project funding. They hope to engage and train young women and girls in the Lima/Allen County area in the programs and activities of YWCA Northwest Ohio and to help develop their leadership potential. Robin Johnson will chair this committee, and additional members from the community are being sought to serve on this Advisory Team.

The boards of trustees of both organizations have been discussing a formal alliance for over a year, beginning around the time that YWCA Lima closed and sold its long-time headquarters building on Market Street.

Among the strategic considerations for the merger, was the possibility of community and regional partnerships. YWCA of Greater Toledo was an obvious choice for an expanded partnership.”

According to McDuffie and Johnson, the final decision was based on the following factors:

1. Both organizations have strong histories of community service in northwest Ohio—119 years for YWCA Toledo and nearly 100 years for YWCA Lima.
2. YWCA Toledo has, in recent years, expanded its reach beyond Lucas County to 16 counties in Northwest Ohio, including Allen County.
3. YWCA Toledo already has a presence in the Allen County area, providing two programs currently: Childcare Resource and Referral Program and the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
4. YWCA Toledo is a Lima/Allen County United Way member.
5. YWCA Toledo is known for its mission-based services in Lucas County, particularly in the areas of:
 - a. The Women’s Battered Shelter
 - b. H.O.P.E. Center (Rape Crisis)
 - c. Permanent Housing for Homeless women and children
 - d. Youth Development Programs
 - e. Healthy Connections Programs

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“No community should be without a YWCA.” – Lisa McDuffie