

OSF Donates Land for Future St. Joseph Community Center

In collaboration with the YMCA and Easterseals, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington plans to build an on-campus community center. The center will be built adjacent to the hospital on a plot of land donated by OSF, valued at \$3 million.

The land is in a prime location in the center of the city. While the old YMCA is on the west end of Bloomington, the new facility will be more centrally located and have the capacity to serve over 20,000 residents each year.

“The Sisters, when they moved out here 50 years ago, really had some foresight as to where Bloomington-Normal was going to be growing,” said Chad Boore, OSF HealthCare Regional CEO.

In addition to recreational activities, the new center will also offer classes on nutrition, exercise, and chronic disease prevention. Lynn Fulton, President of St. Joseph Medical Center, said she hopes this project will change the way people traditionally view healthcare.

“Today, providers write prescriptions for medications. The future is also writing prescriptions for health and wellness,” she said. “You’re not just going to the Y to workout – you’re going to join a community of others like you.”

Strengthening the Bloomington-Normal community is a key mission of the project. The center will aim to bring together people of all ages through programs like afterschool care, social services, and volunteer opportunities. The partnership with the YMCA and Easterseals gives OSF the opportunity to offer a wide range of services and expand its impact.

“Both are great organizations from a Mission standpoint,” said Boore. “As this came together, we looked at serving common interests and common communities. We found great collaboration and connectivity through those missions.”

Renderings of the building show space for an indoor track, swimming pool, Boys and Girls Club, classrooms and a childcare center. It will be located on the corner of St. Joseph Drive and East Washington Street. Construction is expected to begin in 2019 and cost an estimated \$16 million.