



## **OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center Future Home of YMCA and Easterseals' New Community Center**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: [Karen Brodbeck](#), OSF HealthCare Vice President Public Relations (815) 993-3995

(Bloomington, IL / April 3, 2018) – OSF HealthCare is collaborating with the Bloomington-Normal YMCA and Easterseals Central Illinois to build a new community YMCA on the campus of OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington. A \$3 million donation of land from OSF HealthCare, the largest donation ever received by the YMCA, was announced at a news conference today.

"Bringing Easterseals and the YMCA together on the hospital campus will benefit kids, families, and seniors," said Lynn Fulton, President of OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington. "Together, we will continue in our work to improve the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of residents throughout the Bloomington-Normal area."

Construction of the new YMCA will begin upon conclusion of a fundraising campaign to raise sufficient funds for the project. The capital effort is in an early initial stage of building support among key stakeholders prior to launching a full community campaign. "I wish I could provide a specific date when we hope to start construction," said B.J. Wilken, Executive Director and CEO of the Bloomington-Normal YMCA. "If our initial conversations are any indication, we are really excited by the level of vocal support especially for a partnership between the Y, Easterseals and OSF Healthcare."

*Growing Together*, the name given to the collaborative fundraising campaign spearheaded by OSF HealthCare, Easterseals, and the YMCA, is driven by a simple vision: to strengthen the foundations of the Bloomington-Normal community. OSF HealthCare, Easterseals, and the YMCA are no strangers to the community, having already positively impacted the area with 400 years of combined service (since 1880, 1919, and 1855, respectively).

"Our new facility will allow us to serve more than 20,000 people each year and we anticipate the building will act as a hub for the community," said Wilken. "Every community has unique needs, and we've aligned our programs and services to provide updated and enhanced opportunities to help community members grow in mind, body, and spirit."

Among the programs residents can expect are afterschool care and wellness classes, including exercise and nutrition classes, and chronic disease reduction programs. Additionally, seniors will have ample opportunities to connect with people of all ages and give back through volunteerism, intergenerational programming, and social programs and services.

"Improving functional and life skills is part of helping individuals and families learn, grow, and thrive," said Steve Thompson, President and CEO of Easterseals Central Illinois. "This inclusive, state-of-the-art facility will bring together a range of services and programs that will not only impact kids and families but the whole Bloomington-Normal community."

"OSF HealthCare is proud to be invested in this transformational project that aligns with our own mission to serve with the greatest care and love," said Chad Boore, OSF HealthCare Regional CEO. "Ultimately, this partnership will enable us to serve more kids, more families, and more seniors on their journey toward better health and a better life."

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