

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Media Contact:**

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**THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND TO HOLD RIBBON CUTTING**

 **CEREMONY FOR NEWLY REDEVELOPED, STATE OF THE ART Y IN CATONSVILLE**

*Catonsville Y Preschool to be renamed the Betty Sterner Preschool after devoted longtime director*

(Baltimore, MD) – The Y in Central Maryland will hold a **ribbon cutting ceremony** for the newly redeveloped and expanded **Y in Catonsville** on **Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** The recently completed expansion and redevelopment added 15,000 square feet to the building, considerably expanding its size to 30,000 square feet. The building was completely overhauled in three phases of construction beginning in summer of 2011. The newly completed redevelopment includes an expansive new lobby, including a café, fire place and climbing wall, along with new Stay and Play space, group exercise and cycling rooms, a new viewing area for the pool, considerably expanded fitness and free weight space and new locker rooms with family changing rooms, among other amenities.

“A project of this magnitude cannot be completed without the cooperation and support of many community leaders and partners, but I especially want to thank our wonderful and devoted members who kept coming and supporting the Y in Catonsville through the multiple phases of this project,” said John Hoey, President and CEO of the Y in Central Maryland. “This is an exciting day for the Y in Catonsville. We are thrilled to be able to finally bring the highest quality, full Y family experience to this community.”

Approximately 15,000 people and families in Catonsville are currently served by the Y, including 10,000 members; 3,800 program participants; 525 children in Y preschool and Head Start programs; 300 Y summer campers and 150 students in Y Before and After School Enrichment programs.

“The Y has been serving the Catonsville community for 45 years with programs that foster youth development, healthy living and social responsibility,” said Alan Cason, Board Chair. “With these renovations, we open the doors to a whole new chapter of high quality Y experiences for the whole community and can now considerably extend our charitable mission to more families and individuals living in the area."

The Y has also just announced the renaming of the Y preschool in Catonsville, as the Betty Sterner Preschool, in honor of its newly retired longtime director. Sterner started with the preschool in 1994 and has been a beloved and trusted educator of generations of Y preschool children and their families in Catonsville.

In addition to the ribbon cutting, the Y will unveil a commemorative history wall that depicts the rich history of the Y in Catonsville and pays tribute to individuals who have been instrumental in carrying out its mission. Relatives and family members of those depicted in the history wall will be present for, and honored at, the ribbon cutting.

Speakers at the ribbon cutting will include Hoey; Cason; Matt Roberson, Chair of the Southern Baltimore County Y Community Leadership Board; Tom Quirk, Baltimore County Councilman for the First District; and Paula Gerald, Y member.

For information on the Y in Catonsville, visit [http://ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org/).

**Our Mission:**
The Y in Central Maryland is a charitable organization dedicated to developing the full potential of every individual through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**Our Commitment:**

At the Y, we are committed to providing family-oriented, affordable, high quality programs.

A cause driven organization with three areas of vital focus:

* *For Youth Development*: nurturing the potential of every child and teen
* *For Healthy Living*: improving our community’s health & well-being
* *For Social Responsibility*: giving back and providing support for our neighbors

The Y is a place for everyone. People of all races, ages, faiths, gender, abilities, backgrounds and incomes are welcome and financial assistance on a sliding scale is available to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

**Our Values:**

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

More information can be found at [www.ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org).

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