



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What did the YMCA of Marquette County announce?**

The YMCA of Marquette County announced a restructuring plan that we believe is the most sustainable, viable path forward to keeping a strong Y in our city and county. This plan calls for the YMCA of Marquette County to focus its efforts with or very close to the city of Marquette. We also took the necessary and prudent step to voluntarily file for Chapter 11 reorganization protection from our creditors. Chapter 11 allows for a protective forum in which to finalize and implement this restructuring plan. This decision does not affect our daily operations which will continue without interruption.

### **What will the YMCA of Marquette County's new footprint look like?**

We will continue to serve our community Y with programs delivered through our centers within or close to Marquette. These include: West End YMCA, KI Sawyer YMCA Child Development Center and YMCA Early Childhood Development Program, Marquette, and the Youth and Family Center at Lake Superior Village. We also will continue to operate and invest in our before- and after- school programs.

### **What will happen to the Ys not included in this new footprint?**

Last fall we sold the Early Childhood Development Center on Wright Street, which reduced the debt by \$1 million.

Operations at each of these centers will continue without interruption through the reorganization process. The YMCA of Marquette County and West End YMCA have a very strong leadership team who intend to run and improve programs and services.

### **Are you liquidating/closing?**

No. Our doors are open as usual and all programs will operate as normal while we work through this process. Please know that our **doors are open and our hours remain the same.**

### **Have you changed your center hours, membership plans, programming, or staffing?**

We are open for business as usual during the reorganization process. Our intention is that all programs, camps, classes, and activities will continue to operate as normal. Ultimately, our goal is that this plan will help reestablish a strong, healthy Y in Marquette County.

### **Why did the YMCA of Marquette County have to restructure?**

Built up over time with ambitious intentions under previous leadership the YMCA of Marquette County's debt has grown to approximately \$4.8 million. The Y does not earn enough to sustain that level of debt while also running an effective organization.

### **What have you done to try and reduce the Y's debt?**

Much has already been done to address our challenges. In fall of 2016 the Wright Street property was sold. The accounts payable bills were reduced from \$450,000 to \$20,000/monthly. We completed a new CEO leadership transition. We have a new Board of Directors who took over in 2017.

### **Why file for Chapter 11 reorganization protection?**

By voluntarily filing for Chapter 11 reorganization protection, we can assure an orderly, thoughtful process to finalize and implement our restructuring plan. The need to file Chapter 11 was caused by inherited pending legal matters.

**What alternatives did the YMCA of Marquette County consider?**

Our Board of Directors analyzed all options to keep a strong healthy Y in Marquette County. The new Board has been meeting regularly since January 2017 and has benefited from the advice and support of legal, financial and other advisors. We ensured every option was on the table and no stone was left unturned. Ultimately, this plan represents the Y's best shot at long-term survival.

**What makes the YMCA of Marquette County confident this plan will work?**

Considerable thought, discussion and analysis went into developing this plan. Ultimately, we believe this plan is a win for all involved in this difficult decision. It helps us to substantially repay a large portion of our debt while strengthening the Y's presence in Marquette County.

**Why is the Y important to Marquette County?**

The Y has been an important, vital contributor to our community since 1999. Since then, the Y has served thousands of community members.

- Currently we serve more than 5,000 people. Every year families look to the Y as a place where they can focus on their total health, share experiences and gain inspiration from those traveling similar paths. It's a place where young people can find a safe, nurturing environment to learn, discover and thrive.
- We teach 1,110 kids to swim every year.
- We care for 600 kids in a healthy and safe environment when they are out of school.
- Unlike any other fitness and health center, nobody is turned away from the Y because of an inability to pay. In 2016, we spent more than \$145,000 in subsidies and scholarships so more could benefit from being part of the Y.
- We are connectors, bringing the community together to continue to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

**How can I get updates or additional information?**

Updates will be posted to our website: [www.ymcmqt.org](http://www.ymcmqt.org)

Legal information can be obtained from public records.