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## **YMCA of the USA Marks 175 Years of Strengthening Communities Across America.**

RAPID CITY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026 – YMCA of the USA (Y-USA), the national resource office for the YMCA of the Black Hills and 2,600+ YMCAs across the country, kicked off a year-long celebration of its 175th anniversary of the YMCA in America commemorating more than a century and a half of service, innovation, and community impact. Since the establishment of the first United States-based YMCA in Boston in 1851, the Y has grown into one of the nation’s most influential and enduring nonprofit organizations, building connection and belonging in more than 10,000 communities.

“As we reflect on 175 years of service, we’re reminded of the many ways that the YMCA has influenced the development of our nation and contributed to the vitality of American life,” said Suzanne McCormick, President and CEO of YMCA of the USA. Through wars, pandemics, economic shifts, and social changes, the Y has endured and thrived by remaining focused on bringing people together, improving lives and strengthening communities. As we look ahead to the next 175 years, the Y will continue to respond to the most pressing needs of our communities and always be the place where all people can make connections and get the support they need to reach their full potential.”

Throughout 2026, YMCAs nationwide will host events and initiatives that honor the organization’s legacy while spotlighting the critical work happening in communities today - from early learning and childcare, to chronic disease prevention, to mental health support, water safety, and youth development programs, which serve as a pathway to connection, belonging, character-building, and lifelong healthy habits.

In addition to the 175th anniversary, Y-USA is launching “No Place Like This Place,” a nationwide campaign highlighting the diverse ways the Y builds stronger, more connected communities. As the effects of loneliness and isolation continue to be felt nationally across all age groups, Y-USA is working with YMCAs across the country to create intentional experiences that help people achieve their goals, build relationships and feel a sense of belonging.

The YMCA of the Black Hills invites individuals, families, and partners across the country to join in recognizing this milestone year and to help shape the future of a movement dedicated to achievement, relationships, and belonging for all.

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### **About the YMCA of the Black Hills**

Driven by its founding mission, the YMCA of the Black Hills has served as a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community for more than 77 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they’re from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y’s goal is to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across 10,000 communities nationwide. Learn more at [www.ymcabh.org](http://www.ymcabh.org)