



YMCA of Greater Toronto announces transformational \$3 million gift

*McDonald Family Richmond Street YMCA to bring vital programs
and services to King-Spadina neighbourhood*

TORONTO - September 22, 2016 – Today, at its Annual General Meeting, the YMCA of Greater Toronto announced a \$3 million gift from Steve and Jenifer McDonald in support of a new Centre of Community: the McDonald Family Richmond Street YMCA.

Located in the historic Waterworks building at 505 Richmond Street West, the McDonald Family YMCA is part of the charity's strategic plan to connect more people in more communities by opening 10 new Centres of Community across the Greater Toronto Area.

The YMCA's work around the social determinants of health demonstrates that strong social support networks are tied to positive health outcomes for individuals and subsequently, the communities where they live, work, learn, and play.

"Steve and Jenifer's generosity furthers our commitment to improving the health of children, teens, young adults and families across the GTA," says Diane Sinhuber, Chair of the Board, YMCA of Greater Toronto. "This new YMCA will provide safe, healthy and inclusive environments, an essential recreation space, and vital programs and services."

The McDonald Family YMCA will serve the Alexandra Park community and its surrounding neighbourhoods, including Kensington Market, Chinatown, Queen West and the Fashion District. When the Centre opens in 2020, King-Spadina's population is projected to grow to 40,000. The new Centre will offer a foundation upon which the community can build the connections that help foster a sense of belonging.

"We believe that exercise, involvement in the community and having a place to go is very important in terms of city building — and people building," said the McDonalds of why they chose to make a transformational philanthropic investment in the YMCA. "Every single day at the Y holds the promise of a transformation for every individual, and by extension, for our whole community. That really moves us."

The McDonald Family YMCA will be developed in partnership with the City of Toronto as part of the [Waterworks Revitalization](#) project. Championed by City Councillor Joe Cressy, the project, in addition to the new YMCA Centre, will include affordable housing units, a 299-unit residential development, and a public food hall. It will also include an improved St. Andrew's Playground.



In order to make a real difference in the health of communities across the GTA, the YMCA of Greater Toronto launched its [Strong Start, Great Future](#) Capital Campaign, with a goal to raise \$100 million in philanthropic donations. The McDonalds' gift is the largest received to date toward the capital campaign, helping further the YMCA's vision that our communities will be home to the healthiest children, teens and young adults.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto believes if you give kids a **Strong Start**, they have a chance at a **Great Future** – and communities across the GTA will benefit.

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About the YMCA of Greater Toronto

For well over a century, we've provided leadership and worked with partners solving complex social problems to create real, measurable outcomes that have strengthened the social health and fabric of communities. As a charity, the YMCA offers a variety of programs responding to the needs of the community, including education and training, employment and immigrant services, family and youth services, health and fitness programs, child care and camps. Serving the population of the GTA, Durham, Peel, York, Halton Region and Dufferin County, last year the YMCA connected with more than 546,000 people across 409 locations. www.ymcagta.org