

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM- Plattsburgh/Malone YMCA**

**DATE: March 24, 2020**

**SUBJECT: Emergency Child Care Program**

The Plattsburgh / Malone YMCA is proud to announce that they are ready to roll out an emergency childcare program for essential personnel starting immediately.

On Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>, two days before the Plattsburgh/ Malone YMCA closed its operation, and three days before the state mandate to close from the Governor's office was directed, the YMCA's staff mobilized, created a schedule and developed a full-day childcare model that is ready to be implemented immediately.

The "School's Out Club" will operate Monday- Friday from 8am-5pm and will be able to serve 64 children in Plattsburgh and 24 children in Malone. These numbers are a starting point; as the need grows so will the program. There is also availability for the youngest children ages 0-3 years at our Bright Beginnings Child Care Center.

"The YMCA has always been a Cause Driven organization and with its focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. There could not be a more important time to have that focus," says Justin Ihne, CEO of the Plattsburgh/Malone YMCA. Ihne and his team have been working nonstop to make this program available in a short period.

"We have had a tremendous response from the community in support of our efforts and our mission. The Plattsburgh and Malone school districts have been incredible to work with allowing us access to elementary schools for this program," Ihne says.

Amy Kretser, Board of Directors Chair said, "I am very pleased to see how the community continues to recognize the YMCA as a solution to the challenges we are facing today. The YMCA has always been a staple in our community and the board and staff will continue to provide support as long as it's needed," said Kretser.

Parents can reach out to the Plattsburgh and Malone YMCAs to arrange for childcare.

Plattsburgh YMCA contact: Tina Santor- [tsantor@plattsburghymca.org](mailto:tsantor@plattsburghymca.org)

Malone YMCA contact: Michelle Schumacher- [mschumacher@maloneyymca.org](mailto:mschumacher@maloneyymca.org)

In 1887, the Plattsburgh YMCA began on the top floor of the D&H terminal. The next location was above Tierney's Variety Store which burned down in 1902. In 1908, Loyal Smith left the YMCA \$35,000 for a new building and \$100,000 to keep it running. The new building was built on Oak Street and that is where it stands today. The YMCA includes four locations: Two membership locations in Plattsburgh and Malone, a 400-acre Camp Jericho located in Altona, New York, and the Bright Beginning Child Care Center in Plattsburgh. The Y is for Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. For more information, please call 518-561-4290 or email at [sbrown@plattsburghymca.org](mailto:sbrown@plattsburghymca.org).