



April 30, 2015

Dear District 200 Board and Administrators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for the 2015-2016 before and after school care in District 200. We are excited at the thought of moving forward in a partnership with the district to provide quality, structured and safe child care services to the students in the district.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at 815-547-5307. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jen*

Jennifer Jacky  
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**Belvidere Family YMCA | 220 West Locust Street, Belvidere, IL 61008**

## **What We Stand For**

The Belvidere Family YMCA's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

## **Why We Do It**

The Y is Belvidere and Boone County's leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening communities for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

## **We Believe In**

*Youth Development* – The Y nurtures the potential of every child and teen. Youth are taking a greater interest in learning; making smarter life choices; and cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors and the pursuit of higher education and goal achievement.

*Healthy Living* – The Y strives to improve the health and well-being of community members. Adults and youth receive the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve better health and well-being.

*Social Responsibility* – The Y helps people give back and assist their neighbors by offering them opportunities to volunteer, advocate for, and support programs that strengthen community.

At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn and grow. No one is ever denied a membership based on inability to pay.

## **What We Do**

The Y makes accessible the support and opportunities that empower people and communities to learn, grow and thrive. With a focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y nurtures the potential of every child and teen, improves the nation's health and well-being, and provides opportunities to give back and support neighbors.

## **How We Do It**

There is no other nonprofit quite like the Y. That's because we have the presence and partnerships to not just promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.

- The Y is community centered. For more than 110 years, we've been listening and responding to our community's needs.
- The Y brings people together. We connect people of all ages and backgrounds to bridge the gaps in community needs.

- The Y nurtures potential. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.
- The Y has local presence and national reach. We mobilize the local community to effect lasting and meaningful change.

## **Our Values**

Our core values unite us as a movement. They are the shared beliefs and essential principles that guide our behavior interactions with each other and our decision-making.

The four values of the Y:

Caring: Show a sincere concern for others

Honesty: Be truthful in what you say and do

Respect: Follow the golden rule

Responsibility: Be accountable for your promises and actions

## **Local Y History**

In 1902, a group of interested businessmen formed the first YMCA in Belvidere and Boone County. In 1966, a strong organization of community citizens banded together and raised more than \$700,000 for a new building. In February, 1968, a modern new facility including a swimming pool, gymnasium, locker and shower rooms, weight room, meeting rooms, game and club rooms, craft room, teen center and administration offices was dedicated. Renovations to the facility were completed in 1999. The Y began and has stayed committed to providing services to Boone County for more than 112 years.

The Belvidere Family YMCA has adapted to meet the changing needs of Boone County for many years. All ages, races, abilities, and income levels are served. No one is ever denied because of inability to pay. The Y is so much more than a gym and swim. Our goal is to help build a strong foundation for the community based on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility both inside and outside the walls of the facility.

## **Before and After School Care History**

The local Y has provided before and after school care, named Adventure Club, to youth in District 100 for more than 15 years. The program, located in the Belvidere Family YMCA's physical location, is a safe and structured environment for youth. We understand that parents have hectic schedules and some have longer commutes, so we provide care beginning at 5:30am until the school day begins and then resume directly after school ends with care until 6:00pm.

In the morning, parents can drop off their children and the YMCA staff serves a light breakfast, helps with schoolwork, plays games with the children and then drops them off at school. Currently, the schools served are Perry, Washington, Lincoln, Meehan, Seth Whitman, Immanuel, and St. James as well as South and Central Middle Schools.

Every day after school, the YMCA vans pick up at the schools and bring the students back to the Y. After school activities include completing homework, team building activities, swimming, fitness classes, team sports, and arts & crafts. An afternoon snack is included.

Families can choose before school care, after school care, or both. The Y has a weekly fee structure based on whether participants in Adventure Club are members or non-members of the Y. In addition, the Y accepts YWCA approved state funding. This allows more families to be able to secure affordable care for their children.

### **Before and After School Testimonials**

"My son has attended the YMCA Before and After School Adventure Club for 6 years. He enjoys spending time with the friends he's made there and the many activities that are offered. I enjoy the peace of mind I get from knowing that he's happy, staying active and being taken care of by caring and knowledgeable counselors. Communication between the counselors and parents is one of the key components to the success of this YMCA program. I'm thankful for the excitement that this constantly evolving program brings to my child year after year."

~Betty Sullivan (mother to Brad)

"My daughter moved to the YMCA summer program and after school adventure club after being at another care facility for a short time. We are so happy we found the YMCA summer program which then led into her participating in the after school adventure club. She looks forward to going to the YMCA daily as she gets to play with her friends and meet new ones. She loves the different activities that they have. They offer a variety of educational activities as well as playtime activities which is important to me. I trust the YMCA leaders and counselors with my daughter. I know she is well taken care of and is being taught important social skills. I am grateful that the YMCA has such a great program for kids and we will be members of the kid's programs as long as they are available."

~Kelli Groomer (mother to Samantha)

### **Y Kids Club: North Boone Proposal**

The Belvidere Y is proposing a partnership with the North Boone School District to provide quality before and after school care to students. The program will be based on the tenets of the Y: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. North Boone Y Kids Club will be located on site at Poplar Grove Elementary School.

The Before School program will run from 6:00am until the start of school. A light breakfast, prepared by the staff, would be provided to the children. In addition, the staff will provide a structured morning routine that will include homework assistance, activities such as arts and crafts, board games and gym time (as permitted).

The After School program will run from the end of school until 6:00pm. A healthy snack, provided by the Northern Illinois Food Bank, will be served to the participants. Interactive and structured afternoon events will be planned and rotated daily. They will include homework help, arts and crafts, board games, fun fitness classes, structured gym games and playground time (weather permitting). Additionally, the After School program will include community partnerships with entities such as the University of Illinois Extension and the Boone County

Health Department to offer healthy living opportunities and activities to the participants. Previous programs have included such activities as creating healthy snacks, gardening, and proper hygiene. Our before and after school programs strive to extend the guidance that the students receive at home and school to assist in the process of building a strong foundation for the future.

The Y would be more than happy to discuss early release and school's out day care if deemed necessary by the district and the families.

## **Fee Structure**

The cost scale for Before School Y Kids Club would be as follows:

\$30 annual registration fee per family

### *Before and After School per Child*

- \$70 a week for members\*
- \$80 a week for non-members
- \$20 a day for drop in fee\*\*

### *Before School per Child*

- \$30 a week for members\*
- \$35 a week for non-members
- \$10 a day for drop in fee\*\*

### *After School per Child*

- \$50 a week for members\*
- \$55 a week for non-members
- \$15 a day for drop in fee\*\*

\*Member pricing includes membership at all local Ys.

\*\*Drop in care must be secured 24 hours in advance.

The Belvidere Y will also accept approved Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funded participants for care. The Y will handle all before and after school enrollment, paperwork and fees internally. Additionally, the Y staff will provide information to those families interested in the CCAP application process.

## **What to Expect from Us**

*Families-* Participants in the program can expect a fun, yet structured, environment where they are respected and encouraged. Families can expect that their child(ren) are in a safe and nurturing environment where they are encouraged to thrive. They also can expect prompt follow through and communication on questions, concerns, and issues that may arise.

*District-* The district can expect the Y to

- Ensure open lines of communication to discuss the success of this program and further collaboration between the two entities.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth by the administrators.
- Pay the agreed upon fees to use the on-site facility.
- Maintain proper insurance, naming the district on the policy.

### **Staffing**

A supervisor will oversee the program on-site. The supervisor will report directly to the Y's Director of Child Care, who will frequently visit the site.

The Belvidere Y maintains a ratio of 1 counselor for every 10 participants, with a minimum of two staff members present at all times. All staff members will be DCFS background check approved. In addition, all staff members will be trained in proper behavioral management for youth, mandated reporting, and CPR/First Aid certified.

### **Licensing**

The Belvidere Y is a license-exempt facility. The Y works directly with YWCA as a liaison to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The Y follows the guidelines and standards put forth by the State of Illinois.

The Y accepts children who are approved through the YWCA for the CCAP. Through this partnership, the Y will provide information regarding the application process to those families who are interested in pursuing this source of funding.

Families who are approved through the CCAP will be responsible for their assigned co-pays, which the Y automatically withdraws from an account at the beginning of each month. Appropriate paperwork will be completed for each family prior to attendance in the program.

### **Summer Guidance**

Implementation of Before and After School Y Kids Club at Poplar Grove Elementary would occur in August 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. Promotion prior to the program would occur through a mailing to students attending area schools and booths at various school sponsored activities and registration nights. Additionally, the Y will have set times throughout the summer to meet with families in order to answer questions to make the transition into the program as smoothly as possible.