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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YMCA of Columbia-Willamette Expands Child Care**

*Families in Clark County Have a New Option this Spring  
Open House March 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.*

Vancouver, Washington—March 6, 2009—With some organizations forced to cut back in these difficult economic times the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette is opening a new YMCA Child Development Center in Vancouver, Washington to better meet the needs of the community.

The new center, scheduled to open this spring, will provide quality, affordable child care to families with children from six weeks to twelve years of age. According to Jennie Sowder, executive director, “There is a real need for access to child care in this community, where waiting lists have become an issue.” YMCA child care provides a nurturing atmosphere that stimulates learning, celebrates individuality, promotes self-esteem and encourages social interactions based upon respect and kindness.

The community is invited to join the YMCA for an open house at the new location on March 18<sup>th</sup> to learn more about child care options for their family. The site has recently been renovated and will serve up to 134 children.

MORE MORE MORE

The YMCA has had a presence in Clark County since 1945 and opened a health and wellness facility in 2000. The new Orchards center is the second YMCA child development center in Vancouver and is located in an area with a high-density of families with low-income.

The YMCA mission guides the Y in all of the work we do, the programs we offer give us the ability to work towards our mission each day. The mission of the YMCA propels us to reach out in our community to continue to help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

For more information, please contact Tammy Spencer, YMCA Senior Director of Communications and Marketing at 503.382.4394 or [tspencer@ymca-portland.org](mailto:tspencer@ymca-portland.org) or visit <http://www.ychildcare.org/orchards.html>.

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