

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stevens Point Area YMCA Announces Transformational \$5 Million Gift from Dallas and Edith Pankowski

STEVENS POINT, Wis. — The Stevens Point Area YMCA announced a transformational \$5 million gift from Dallas and Edith Pankowski, one of the largest gifts in the organization's history, that will help usher in a new era for the YMCA and its role in the Stevens Point community.

In recognition of their extraordinary generosity and belief in the future of the YMCA, the Stevens Point Area YMCA will become the Pankowski YMCA.

The announcement was made Tuesday, September 15, during the YMCA's official Capital Campaign launch, where community members, donors, partners and supporters gathered to learn about the vision for the future of the organization.

The Pankowskis' gift will serve as a cornerstone of the YMCA's Capital Campaign and will help fund a significant transformation of the Stevens Point YMCA facility. The project is designed to create a more welcoming, modern and accessible YMCA that can better serve children, families, older adults and individuals throughout the community for generations to come.

"This is a defining moment for our YMCA," said Ryan Zietlow, President and CEO of the Stevens Point Area YMCA. "Dallas and Edith's generosity is truly transformational. Their gift gives us the opportunity to dream bigger about what the YMCA can be and what our community deserves. The Pankowski YMCA will stand as a lasting testament to their belief in the power of this organization and the people it serves."

A Legacy of Giving and a Vision for the Future

The Capital Campaign began with the legacy of the late Tim Copps, whose love for the YMCA and quiet generosity helped set the vision in motion.

Tim was a longtime friend and supporter of the YMCA who valued the organization as a place where people could come together. He could often be seen around the Y engaging with others and enjoying the community that surrounded him.

His legacy gift helped create the foundation for the YMCA to begin imagining what a revitalized facility could mean for the future.

The Pankowskis' \$5 million gift now represents a major step forward in bringing that vision to life.

A Gift for Generations

The Pankowskis have expressed their hope that their gift will have an impact far beyond the immediate transformation of the YMCA.

"Edith and I have always believed that staying physically active is an important part of healthy living," said Dallas Pankowski. "That is what makes the YMCA so special. It serves people throughout every stage of life, from our youngest children to our seniors, with opportunities to stay active, healthy and connected."

The Pankowskis' generosity will help the YMCA create spaces and experiences that support its mission of strengthening the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The transformation will build upon the YMCA's long history in the Stevens Point area while positioning the organization to meet the changing needs of the community.

"This campaign is about creating a YMCA that our community can be proud of—not just today, but 20, 30 and 50 years from now," Zietlow said. "The Pankowski YMCA will be a place where generations of families can learn, grow, build relationships and find belonging. Dallas and Edith have made an extraordinary commitment to that future."

Building on a Community Vision

The \$5 million gift represents a significant milestone, but it is only the beginning of the YMCA's broader Capital Campaign.

The Stevens Point Area YMCA will continue working with individuals, families, businesses, foundations and community partners to raise the additional resources necessary to bring the full vision for the Pankowski YMCA to life.

"This is a community project," Zietlow said. "The Pankowskis have shown what is possible when someone believes boldly in the future. Now we have an opportunity for the entire community to come together and help make this vision a reality."