



NEWS AND INFORMATION from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Y CHILD CARE CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY**

***Daycare/preschool center on Woodmere marks one year on Feb. 18, 2010***

TRAVERSE CITY, Jan. 20, 2010 – Break out the balloons, birthday cake and party hats.

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA’s Y Child Care Center will celebrate a successful first year in operation with a birthday party and open house on Thursday, February 18, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Members of the public—including parents, grandparents, employers and staff, and friends of the YMCA—are invited to attend.

“We have been fortunate to have some 30 children experience our child care in the past year,” said Molly Brown, YMCA director of Y Child Care programs. “Our teachers are experienced child-care providers who incorporate the YMCA’s Christian values-based approach in care and teaching. The result is a fun, happy atmosphere where infants, toddlers and preschoolers can really thrive.”

The YMCA is the nation’s largest provider of day and child-care services in the country. Its family-centered philosophy is geared to the individual needs of children. Each room provides a play-centered environment with a wide range of materials and developmentally appropriate activities, which allow children to manipulate, discover, explore, make choices, and create according to their interests. Each child is recognized and valued as a unique individual with a capacity for growth and development. Through daily group and individual activities, each child is encouraged to develop emotionally, socially, creatively, and intellectually at his or her own rate.

“The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA Invest in Youth Community Appeal raises donations for scholarships each year to benefit Y child care and all other of our 65+ programs so that all can participate regardless of financial need,” according to Dave Eitland, Y director of development. “The community has been generous in helping these kids experience our Child Care Center.”

The Y Child Care Center is located in Traverse City at 1100 Woodmere, Suite B. The Center is fully licensed by the State of Michigan for 53 children, from newborns through pre-kindergarteners. Kindergarten enrichment and after-school programs for school-aged children are offered, as well.

For more information on Y Child Care or to RSVP to the Feb. 18 open house contact Molly Brown at 231-421-3568 or email her at [childcare@gtbayymca.org](mailto:childcare@gtbayymca.org). Online child-care registration is available at [www.gtbayymca.org](http://www.gtbayymca.org).

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is a Judeo-Christian organization that serves more than 11,000 kids and 3,000 members each year through 65+ programs that build body, mind, and spirit. Part of the largest charitable group in the country, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA granted more than \$120,000 in financial aid to 500 families in 2009.

Some 600 volunteers donated over 44,000 hours of their time to ensure the Y could fulfill its mission of building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

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