



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Kitsap Family YMCA merges with YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties**

The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties and the Kitsap Family YMCA are thrilled to announce a merger effective July 1, 2010, to best serve the residents of Kitsap County. An agreement was signed February 10.

These two organizations have served their respective communities under the same mission and values for more than a century. During these economic times, many non-profit organizations have found it beneficial to work together to maximize resources.

“The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties admires the impact the Kitsap Family YMCA has had on the community and looks forward to working together as one association,” says Bob Ecklund, President and CEO of the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties.

Merger discussions began in 2008 when the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties partnered with Kitsap County to build the Haselwood Family YMCA in Silverdale, set to open in summer 2011. The Kitsap Family YMCA previously served as a branch of the Armed Services YMCA, based in Washington, D.C.

“We have worked with the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties for many years and they have always been outstanding partners,” says Glen Godfrey, Executive Director of the Kitsap Family YMCA. “As one organization, we can align our resources to best serve the community for generations to come.”

Leadership staff and volunteers have worked together for several months to create a transition plan that will benefit the Kitsap Family YMCA, its members and the community. The plan includes investing in the facility, programs and staff development over the next 12 months.

“With the proper planning and procedures in place, we expect the merger transition to go smoothly,” says Patrick Boyle, Kitsap Family YMCA Board of Directors Chair.

The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties and the Kitsap Family YMCA have worked together on program development and innovation, and coordinated marketing campaigns for several years. As one organization, the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, including the Kitsap Family YMCA, is committed to building strong kids, families and communities.

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*Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties touches the lives of over 100,000 people and provides \$3 million in financial assistance annually, enabling 13,000 in need to join YMCA programs. The YMCA has been enriching Pierce and Kitsap communities for 125 years.*