



STAYING IN THE HEART
Where we all belong

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**YMCA MARKS BUILDING PROGRESS WITH
"TOPPING OFF" CEREMONY**

Steel framing complete, Greater Burlington YMCA rises in Burlington's downtown

February 28, 2019 – Burlington, VT – One year to the day after kicking off the community phase to the capital campaign to build a new downtown facility, Greater Burlington YMCA leaders, members and families gathered with Mayor Miro Weinberger and the community to celebrate completion of the building's steel frame.

The ceremonial "topping off" event included the opportunity for attendees to sign a steel beam and watch as it was lifted into place at the highest point of the building's frame. With the completion of steel work expected within days, the 50,000 square foot facility at 298 College Street remains on track for an anticipated early 2020 opening.

"It is incredibly heartening to see the Y's vision literally rising out of the ground and our Y's future coming into focus," said Y President & CEO Kyle Dodson. "For more than 150 years, the Y has adapted and served this community. With this new building, we are poised to write the next chapter in our history of service."

Beyond a dramatic revamping of the health and wellness space, 10,000 square feet of the new facility will be dedicated to providing high-quality care for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children. The Y's plans allow it to significantly increase its current capacity, caring for an additional 50 children in the new facility.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in the YMCA's progress toward its new downtown facility, which is good news for members, families, and all Burlingtonians," said Weinberger. "This new facility is going to help us achieve some of our most important goals as a City: Increasing access to opportunity through high-quality childcare, adding to the amenities and vibrancy of our downtown, and providing a crucial gathering place right in the heart of our community. As a YMCA member myself, I can't wait to start working out at this modern, bright new space in early 2020."

Built in 1934 to serve a different set of community needs, the Y's current home is outdated and largely inaccessible to those with limited mobility. The new facility will transform the Y and create a revitalized community partner poised to offer the facility and programs the community needs and deserves. Key features to the new building including:

- Modern, bright, and inviting fitness, weight, and group exercise facilities.
- A light-filled aquatics center with two pools.
- A mixed-use gymnasium.
- A 1/10 mile walking/running track.
- 50 additional infant and toddler child care slots in a secure, modern space designed for early learning.
- Fully ADA compliant space with an elevator and universally accessible design.
- Energy efficiency.
- Common ground for people from all across the community.
- The opportunity to increase programming that supports an aging population.

Beyond the building's physical features, at the project groundbreaking ceremony just four months back, the Y's Dodson emphasized the organization's role to strengthen community. "A new Y will not only help each of us grow stronger, but will help us deliver on our promise to weave us together as a community—as a WHOLE community," he said.

The community phase to the Y's "Staying in the Heart" campaign, kicked off exactly one year prior to today's "topping off" ceremony, propelled fundraising from \$14.5 million to more than \$17 million, helping to clear the way to start construction this past fall. To date, more than 400 donors have contributed to the campaign—including individuals, foundations, businesses, and the City of Burlington through its Early Learning Initiative.

The Y's current home at 266 College Street, which has been sold, will remain in operation until the anticipated early 2020 opening of its new home at 298 College Street.

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About the Y

The Greater Burlington YMCA is a non-profit organization with a mission to build a strong community by involving youth, adults, and families in programs and activities that develop spirit, mind and body. Last year, the Y awarded \$470,000 in financial assistance so everyone

could access the Y's life-enriching programs.