



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Doug Bishop
Greater Burlington YMCA
802-734-4295
dbishop@qbymca.org

**POMERLEAU PLEDGES \$1,000,000 CHALLENGE TO ENSURE
THE GREATER BURLINGTON YMCA LONG-TERM SUCCESS**

Pledge is the family's second to the Y's "Staying in the Heart" Campaign

June 1, 2017 – Burlington, VT – The 151st annual meeting of the Greater Burlington YMCA was a fairly standard affair—election of board members, recounting of achievements—until shortly before its conclusion. It was then that Y President & CEO Kyle Dodson welcomed longtime supporter Antonio Pomerleau. Together, they announced a new \$1 million pledge, from the Antonio and Rita Pomerleau Foundation to the Y's "Staying in the Heart" capital campaign.

The Pomerleau family helped launch the Y's capital campaign with a previous \$1 million gift.

"We are simply blown away by the continued support and commitment of Tony and the Pomerleau family to our community, and especially the Y," said Kyle Dodson, Y President & CEO. "The Pomerleau family has time and again shown their support for children and families, in ways that make positive changes that have both immediate and long-term impact. We are humbled and grateful," Dodson added.

"Family and the community have, and will always have, our support," said Antonio Pomerleau. "As my 100th birthday approaches, I know that a \$1 million dollar challenge to the community from the Pomerleau Family Foundation, in the memory of my daughters, Anne Marie and Ellen Pomerleau, will allow the YMCA to continue to put our community first."

Both of the Pomerleau gifts have been dollar-for-dollar challenges, requiring the Y to raise an additional million to qualify for the gift. Before this new challenge, the Y had raised \$9 million toward its \$15 million fundraising goal on the campaign to build a new 60,000 square foot facility on the former site of the Ethan Allen Club on College Street in Burlington. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$22 million, including acquisition of the Ethan Allen site. The new building will feature state-of-the-art fitness facilities, two pools, an expanded early education and child care center, and other community resources, such as a teaching kitchen. The balance of the cost will

come from the pending sale of the Y's current facility, at 266 College Street, and from a federal community development program.

The Y's current facility was named "The Pomerleau Family YMCA" in 2013. The Y had previously established that it would recognize the Pomerleau Family's generosity by carrying the name forward to the new facility. In addition, the Y will also honor this latest gift with the inclusion of the "Anne Marie and Ellen Pomerleau Classroom" in the child care wing of the new facility. Anne Marie and Ellen Pomerleau both were active in supporting education and volunteering for others.

"Tony Pomerleau had the faith and vision to invest the first \$1 million in our campaign, and this generosity inspired many other community leaders to join our campaign," said Dodson. "Now we hope that others will be motivated to step forward and help us build the Y this community needs here in the heart of downtown Burlington."

###

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. The state's largest provider of child care, the Y operates a fitness and aquatics facility in Burlington and partners with the State of Vermont and all of the state's hospitals to provide chronic disease prevention and management education in all of Vermont's 14 counties. Last year, the Y awarded close to \$600,000 in financial assistance so everyone could access the Y's life-enriching programs.