



Y of Central Maryland
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Y OF CENTRAL MARYLAND TO OPEN ITS FIRST FAMILY CENTER Y IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Big Vanilla Athletic Club in Arnold to become the Greater Annapolis Family Center Y

(Arnold, Md.) —The Y of Central Maryland and LAR LLC, owner of Big Vanilla Athletic Clubs, announced an agreement today for the Y to purchase Big Vanilla's 80,000 square foot club in Arnold, Md. and convert it to the Greater Annapolis Family Center Y. The agreement calls for a 30-day transition period, with the Y taking full ownership and management effective September 19th. The acquisition extends the Y's long-standing commitment to Anne Arundel County, with 15 years of youth development programming and a strong base of Anne Arundel County volunteers who actively fundraise for the Y's charitable cause.

The Y will continue to provide high-quality programs and membership experiences while maintaining a commitment to the community and dedication to promoting a health-centered lifestyle, which Big Vanilla and the Y share as common values. There will be several changes made to align the center with the Y's quality standards (in effect in all Family Center Ys across the region) and to reflect the Y's core mission. The changes include special member discounts on youth development programs, scholarships for those who can otherwise not afford Y services, opportunities for volunteerism, access to the entire network of Family Center Ys throughout Central Maryland and many free programs, services, special events and activities.

"The Y and Big Vanilla share many of the same values. This was a great opportunity to join forces with an organization that is community-centric and will continue to support families in the area," said Larry Ray, owner of Big Vanilla Athletic Clubs in Arnold and Pasadena. "As someone who has been in the health and wellness business for a very long time, I have a great deal of respect for the Y and I know that I am leaving the business I built in the hands of an organization that will do good for the community."

The Y currently operates four summer camps and eight before and after school enrichment program sites in Anne Arundel County. With the addition of the Greater Annapolis Family Center Y, the Y will now have a hub from which to fully deliver Y programs and services that support its charitable mission and provide full access to Y services for the surrounding community.

John Hoey, President & CEO of the Y of Central Maryland, commented, "We're excited that the addition of this center enables us to greatly expand and deepen our cause-driven work in Anne Arundel County. The Greater Annapolis Family Center Y will be a hub for family and community gatherings; a place to relax and reconnect with family and friends; as well as a place to be active and healthy in spirit, mind and body. We look forward to working collaboratively with volunteers, staff and others in the community to fully deliver our charitable mission to as many people and families in Anne Arundel County as possible. We are especially grateful to the volunteer leaders of our Anne Arundel County Community Board who worked so hard to help make this day possible."

As part of the transition process, current staff of the Arnold location will be offered the opportunity to become Y employees and it is the Y's desire that they will decide to stay on and join the Y team.

Melanie Graw, Chair of the Y's volunteer Anne Arundel County Community Board, said, "The agreement marks a huge milestone for many volunteers who have long been committed to the Y's cause and to bringing a full service Family Center Y to Anne Arundel County. We know what a strong Y means to the community and we're delighted by this development."

Michelle Reedy, a longtime Y Center Director, has been named District Executive Director for the Greater Annapolis Family Center Y, effective September 19, 2013. Reedy has most recently managed the 60,000 square foot Dancel Family Center Y in Howard County and previously ran both the Parkville and Perry Hall Family Center Ys in Baltimore County.

Ray will continue to oversee operations at Big Vanilla's Pasadena location. "The Big Vanilla in Pasadena is a mere six years young and I look forward to having the time, energy and ability to focus on its continued growth and development," said Ray.

About Big Vanilla Athletic Clubs

Big Vanilla Athletic Clubs originally opened in 1977 in Arnold, Md. as a tennis and racquetball club. Since its inception, Big Vanilla has transformed into a multi-purpose, family-focused, sports, wellness and recreational club with a second location in Pasadena, Md. It is ranked in the top 100 for successful health clubs nationwide and has received The Capital's "Reader's Choice Award" for "Best Fitness/Health Club" four years in a row. Big Vanilla is dedicated to providing a modern, safe and clean fitness and community center for its members while promoting the value of a health-centered lifestyle. For more information, visit www.bigvanilla.com, or find Big Vanilla on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BigVanillaAthleticClubs and on Twitter @BigVanilla1.

About the Y of Central Maryland

Our Mission:

The Y of Central Maryland is a charitable organization dedicated to developing the full potential of every individual through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Our Commitment:

At the Y, we are committed to providing family-oriented, affordable, high quality programs.

A cause driven organization with three areas of vital focus:

- For Youth Development: nurturing the potential of every child and teen
- For Healthy Living: improving our community's health & well-being
- For Social Responsibility: giving back and providing support for our neighbors

The Y is a place for everyone. People of all races, ages, faiths, gender, abilities, backgrounds and incomes are welcome and financial assistance on a sliding scale is available to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Our Values:

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

More information can be found at ymaryland.org or follow the Y of Central Maryland on Facebook and Twitter.

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