



Upper Bucks YMCA

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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Dear Child Care Families:

As the Y strives to become the community center for Upper Bucks County and programs are consolidated to one facility, decisions continue to be made to enhance and improve our service to this community. These business decisions are not made lightly, knowing that families' lives can be influenced seriously by them. One such decision was unanimously made by the Upper Bucks YMCA Board of Directors at its December 8, 2010 meeting. This decision was to close the Preschool Child Care program that is currently being held at 151 South 14th Street, Quakertown, and to expand and move the School Age Child Care program to the Y's new facility at 401 Fairview Avenue, Quakertown, effective July 1, 2011.

The closing of the Preschool Child Care program comes at a time when we are selling our 14th Street facility and have no alternative place to house the program. Unfortunately, due to the economy, we are not in a position to borrow or raise enough money to renovate the appropriate warehouse space at 401 Fairview Avenue. To put large amounts of money into renovating leased space does not make good business sense, especially since our enrollments have been declining over the past year. Additionally, as many of our families already know, the child care center's current condition is in a state that would require a significant renovation. Again, the Y is not able to borrow the necessary funding to re-build an up to date center. We are pleased that there are other quality child care centers in our community from which our families can choose and we will certainly be happy to answer any questions they may have regarding these choices.

The Y is not getting out of the child care business - rather we are changing our focus to school age children during the after school hours when many are home alone engaging in activities that are undesirable and harmful to themselves and others. Often times, due to sheer boredom, unsupervised children injure themselves or make bad choices of what to eat or what to watch on TV or the internet. The Y wants to combat this in our community.

We are excited to be able to bring our School Age Child Care (SACC) program to 401 Fairview Avenue where we currently hold camp in the summer. The children enrolled in this program will have spacious rooms in our new facility to call their own after school. They will have staff who will teach them how to develop positive relationships with their peers and guide them through their homework activities. Our large gymnasium will be available for games and exercise. We will provide healthy snacks. They will also have time each week to swim in our large recreational pool. The family atmosphere at the Y will make it a great place for children to be after school.

The Y is a powerful association of men, women and children committed to bringing about lasting personal and social change. With a focus on nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the nation's health and well-being and providing opportunities to give back and support neighbors, the Y enables youth, adults, families and communities to be healthy, confident, connected and secure. We know we can't be all things to all people, but we are funneling our strengths and resources to ensure that we are here for those who need us.

Sincerely,
Pat Edwards
Executive Director

Mission: To put Christian principles like honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility, into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.