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## **YMCA of Kokomo Names Trish Severns as First Woman CEO**

**KOKOMO**– January 4, 2019. As the Y continues its cause to strengthen the community, they also are strengthening their leadership team by naming Trish Severns as CEO. Leading into the new year, Severns, a Kokomo native and nonprofit leader with nearly 30 years of experience in the community, will be the first woman to serve as CEO in the 140-year history of the Kokomo YMCA.

Severns has a huge heart not only for the Y, but for Howard County, as well. “I’m excited and thankful for opportunity to lead an organization that is solely committed to improving the lives of those in our community. I look forward to continuing to join forces with other organizations to create opportunities to increase our impact, expand our reach, and accomplish more for our communities than we can on our own,” said Severns.

As CEO, Severns will oversee all aspects of the Y’s operations, including membership, financial sustainability, fundraising, strategic planning, community engagement and leadership development. The YMCA of Kokomo, founded in 1875, is one of the community’s largest and best-known nonprofit organizations, with a new downtown facility boasting nearly 16,000 members, a Licensed Early Learning Child Care Center and 52 acre Day Camp with an annual budget of \$3.8 million.

Kim Lafollete, President of the YMCA Board of Directors, is positive Severns is the best fit for taking on the role of CEO. “We are confident that Trish will continue to do exceptional work at the Kokomo YMCA. She is a cause-driven leader who is passionate about the YMCA and committed to the mission. She will continue to have a positive impact on the organization and lead us into this next chapter.”

After Severns graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor’s in Exercise Science she returned to Kokomo to serve as the Youth and Family Program Director where she launched YMCA Child Care & Family Programming. In 2002 in partnership with St. Joseph Hospital, Severns led the expansion to the Y’s Licensed Early Learning Child Care Center & Before and After School Programming serving more than 250 families annually.

Severns has since served in various roles including Chief Operating Officer during the new facility transition where she oversaw the development and implementation of the strategic plans to increase membership, new program innovation, community partnerships and leadership development.

For more information, contact Tony Budenz at 765-457-4447 or [tony.budenz@kokomoymca.org](mailto:tony.budenz@kokomoymca.org).

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### **About the Y**

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Since 1875, the Kokomo Family YMCA has been engaging children, adults and families – regardless of age, income or background. We seek to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the area's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. [kokomoymca.org](http://kokomoymca.org)