

Good afternoon.

My name is Chris Reese and I am the CEO of the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA in Albany, Oregon. We serve a tri-county region to include Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties and have a typical membership number of close to 6500 members. After several town hall meetings to understand the needs of Albany and our surrounding communities, the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA narrowed our focus to address those needs. We plan to build additional Early Learning Child Development Centers; an adaptive and all-inclusive outdoor sports complex; an inclement weather proof adaptive playground; an adaptive splash pad water feature; and a physical therapy pool. With 6.2 million dollars in additional funding, we would be able to reduce unsupervised out of school time for our children across our community, by creating space, hiring faculty, and providing resources for children to thrive.

With thousands of children playing sports in our community, half at very discounted rates or free in many cases, Albany cannot support the demand for athletics and play space outdoors. Funding is needed to help build our sports complex for youth activities. We have 17 acres to build on with 4 more adjacent acres available in time. We have donors and organizations helping us to achieve this dream. Organizations like the Special Olympics of Oregon, the Scharpf Foundation, Young Life, US Boxing, the Murdock Trust, and many more have stepped up to support our community. We have spent 2 million in capital improvements and received over 3.5 million in in-kind donations. We still have over 3 million dollars in turf coming, in-kind, as well as in-kind labor for excavation.

Our project in total will cost in excess of 15 million dollars when all said and done. We want the first fields completed by the Fall of 2021 and four additional fields completed by summer of 2022. The athletic performance center will be completed by Winter of 2021. If we had the funding, the rest of the projects could be completed by end of 2021, as the builders, engineers, and designers are ready and behind us. If the committee could help approve financial support of 6.2 million dollars, the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA would drastically improve the mental, spiritual, and physical health of thousands of people across three counties. We are dedicated to our vision of strengthening our community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Will you help us build what Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties deserve?