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CONTACT: Jane Packer, jpacker@ymcasf.org
(415) 281-6747

YMCA TO MOVE TO NEW SPACE IN TENDERLOIN
Interim Site Will Provide Program Space for Neighborhood Youth, Seniors

SAN FRANCISCO—The YMCA of San Francisco announced today that it has found a temporary home in the Tenderloin/Central City -- at 387 Golden Gate Avenue -- where it will provide programs for seniors, youth and other community members starting in January 2010.

Earlier this summer, the Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA's residential and fitness facilities at 220 Golden Gate Avenue closed, so that the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation and Mayor's Office of Housing could convert it into residential facilities for formerly homeless community members. For the past several months, the YMCA has been seeking an interim site where it could relocate its community programs, including those for neighborhood teens and seniors.

Moving these programs to the interim facility is part of the YMCA's long-term plan for serving the neighborhood, where it will eventually build a new 50,000 square foot building with full fitness facilities and community program space at 333 Golden Gate. The new building plans are a collaboration with UC-Hastings College of the Law whose faculty and students will have access to the new facility.

"We're excited about this interim facility where we can continue to serve the individuals and families in the Tenderloin community," YMCA President and CEO Chuck Collins said. "While we sustain this presence, we're keeping an eye to the future and need continued support to make the new facility a reality."

Currently, fitness members from the Central YMCA are using workout facilities at other branches. A new option – community memberships – will be available for people who are interested in a limited selection of health programs, including yoga and cycling.

Bruce Simon, chairperson of the Hastings Board of Directors, recognizes how a YMCA can support and transform a community.

"Whether in its historic location, the interim facility or the new building, the YMCA ultimately is about the connections that it makes between people and the sense of community that it creates. That's why we're excited to have the Central YMCA as a neighbor," Simon said.

For more than 150 years the YMCA of San Francisco has provided comprehensive programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the Bay Area. Through its 14 locations from Marin to the Santa Cruz Mountains, the YMCA's programs span the generations to build individuals with healthy spirits, minds and bodies. From swim classes and health programs to senior activities and job readiness training, the YMCA of San Francisco provides the resources that each neighborhood needs in a local community center. For more information on YMCA programs and events, please visit www.ymcasf.org.

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