



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the merger happening?

For 95 years, the YWCA has provided programming for Adams County. However, in recent years, changes in leadership, rising costs, and the pandemic have impacted the YWCA financially.

Despite these challenges, the doors to the YWCA remained open. The volunteer leadership of the YWCA searched diligently to find a partner that would join us in continuing to offer the services, including childcare, community outreach, aquatics and fitness. The Hanover Area YMCA shares the same core values and interest in serving our community and clearly offers a strategic and aligned path forward.

Since February, both organizations have engaged in collaborative discussions, ultimately agreeing that merging is the best way forward. Under this new structure, the YWCA's main facility and offsite childcare center will become part of the Hanover Area YMCA. The 909 Fairfield Rd. Gettysburg location will be renamed the Gettysburg YMCA, while the offsite childcare center at 50 Expedition Trail in Gettysburg will become the Gettysburg YMCA Childcare Center.

Does this mean there is no longer a YWCA in Adams County?

Following the merger approval by the Orphans court, the YWCA Gettysburg and Adams County will transition under the Hanover Area YMCA Association umbrella, and the YWCA brand will be retired.

What about the YWCA's advocacy programs?

Both the YWCA and the YMCA share a commitment to strengthening the community, making this partnership a natural fit. Both organizations are dedicated to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

The YMCA, as a national leader in community-based programs, helps individuals find their "why"—whether through improving health, supporting youth, or contributing to a more cohesive and inclusive community. While specific programs may evolve, the core mission of building a stronger, more connected community will remain central.

Will YWCA childcare services continue?

Yes. Childcare services will continue without interruption at the Adams Commerce Center location. Families currently enrolled in the childcare program have been informed of the merger.

What happens to my YWCA membership?

Your YWCA membership will automatically be transferred upon merger approval by the Orphans court. Additional information will be provided at that time. The Fairfield Road facility will remain open throughout the transition, with no disruption to services. As a future YMCA member, you'll also gain access to the Hanover Area YMCA facilities, including those in Hanover and Littlestown, as well as nationwide access to other YMCAs across the United States.

What about my recent donation to the YWCA?

Both the YWCA and the YMCA are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, so your charitable donations remain tax-deductible. Rest assured, all past, present, and future donations intended for the Gettysburg area will be used exclusively within Gettysburg and the Adams County community.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Julie Haller
YWCA Board, Vice President
717-515-7416

Lisa Pratt
Gettysburg YMCA, Executive Director
717-334-9171

