



Henry County YMCA Board Votes to Suspend Operation

ATLANTA (October 21, 2009) --- At its October 14, 2009, regularly-scheduled meeting, the Henry County Family YMCA board of managers voted to suspend the YMCA's local current operation and dissolve the board. YMCA staff members will complete existing programs that run through the end of the year.

Because families have a significant need for supervised summer youth activities, the YMCA hopes to continue offering its summer day camp program, according to Jeff Kowalczyk, interim Henry County YMCA director.

“Since it was chartered in 2002, the Henry County branch flourished as a program center with youth sports, alternative school suspension, extensive Hurricane Katrina assistance and relief, team-building activities, and an annual corporate cup challenge,” Kowalczyk says.

The success of these programs led the county and YMCA board to consider different sites to expand into a full-service branch. In addition, market research showed strong interest from residents. The county and the YMCA spent significant energy and resources to make this happen.

Unfortunately, the timing of the public/private partnership coincided with the economic downturn. The expense of a new facility, paired with the Metro Atlanta YMCA's other commitments, prohibited the YMCA from moving to the next step.

“We want to recognize the time, energy, dedication, and commitment of Tony Moye, our most recent board chairman, and all current and past board members,” says Kowalczyk. “They provided great leadership and an immense amount of resources over the past seven years.”

Jeff Alevy, the past executive director, spent seven years of his YMCA career investing in Henry County's children and families. “As the executive director, he and the Y's volunteer and staff leadership built relationships with the community, implemented programs, developed the staff, and continuously worked to move the Y forward. They all are to be commended,” Kowalczyk says.

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