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Aug. 21, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What: Dr. Ken & Dot Johnson Center for Youth Excellence – teen and wellness center, community ribbon cutting and tours

When: Friday Sept. 7, 4 to 6 p.m. Remarks begin at 4:15.

Where: Boys & Girls Clubs of Corvallis – 1112 NW Circle Blvd.,

The Johnson Center for Youth Excellence teen center and Brauti Wellness Clinic has been completed and will open the doors for afterschool programs and youth health services on the first day of the new school year. The \$10 million construction and endowment campaign has raised \$7.2 million of its goal for the 20,000 square foot expansion that is connected to the existing Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis facility.

The Johnson Center for Youth Excellence project broke ground in July of 2017 and completed construction the end of August. The first floor of the building will provide a permanent space for the Club’s high school enrichment programs that target graduation goals, career exploration, financial literacy, job skills training, health and fitness programs.

The second floor of the Johnson Center will house physical and mental health services in the Brauti Wellness Center that will be staffed and managed by Samaritan Health Services.

“This transformational project places a youth-centric medical home inside the walls of our youth development organization,” said Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis CEO Helen Higgins. “This project intentionally leverages our culture of trust with youth to provide a connection and a warm hand-off to mental and physical health providers in a welcoming space. We will help teens build a positive experience with their health provider that they will carry with them into adulthood.”

Doug Boysen, president and CEO of Samaritan Health Services, said the center will provide pediatrics and mental health services for both Club members and youth and teens from across Benton County.

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“We see this as a unique opportunity to serve young people in a convenient location where they feel safe and comfortable,” Boysen said. “With the Johnson Dental Clinic already in place at the Boys & Girls Club, our services will be a natural extension that allows club members to access the full range of care in one place. This is a best-practice model, and we are excited to work with the Boys & Girls Club on this promising program.”

The Boys & Girls Club board and staff are pleased with the collaboration.

“Samaritan shares our goals of emphasizing education and prevention in their work with youth and of normalizing asking for help for mental health issues,” said Higgins. “Bringing together the strengths of our two non-profit organizations will be a game-changer for our community youth and families for years to come.”

The pediatric and mental health clinics at the Club will also serve as an additional practice setting for physician residents who are completing their final phase of training. The residents will work under the supervision of currently-practicing physicians and will spend some of their time interacting with the members in the teen center and the current Clubhouse.

“This location is an ideal setting for the residents, who should relate well to the young people they are seeing and who can also serve as resources and role models for those interested in health-related careers,” Boysen said.

The Johnson Center is designed to be a hub of opportunity where teens will participate in year-round leadership education, engage in programs that promote healthy lifestyles and gain hands-on experience in first-time employment experiences with the local business community. The job readiness program will emphasize family-wage career opportunities available in Benton and Linn counties, such as healthcare, skilled trades, finance and banking, light manufacturing and forestry/agriculture.

“The Johnson Center is a model that could be replicated across Oregon as a way to efficiently increase access to services that can be expensive to build and sustain in small communities” said Higgins.

The Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis is an independent 501c3 youth social service organization led by a local board of directors. They rely on the generous donations of community members, businesses, and grants to sustain safe, accessible and affordable services for school age youth for nearly 300 days a year.

Samaritan Health Services is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, health services and health plans, caring for more than 250,000 residents in the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon Coast.

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