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HEALTH CARE FAMILY STEPS UP TO PUSH YMCA/EASTERSEALS PROJECT FORWARD

Bloomington, IL – The Bloomington-Normal YMCA and Easterseals Central Illinois received a tremendous endorsement from two prominent McLean County physicians to help meet the anonymous family challenge gift of \$4 million announced last month.

Dr's Jerry and Laura Randolph-Oakey pledged to match any and all contributions from fellow health care providers up to \$200,000 for a total potential gift of \$400,000 to narrow to gap in order for the YMCA and Easterseals to meet the \$4 million challenge announced in September. Lifelong area residents, Dr's Jerry and Laura have been longtime supporters of the YMCA and Easterseals and have been leading proponents of healthy lifestyles and youth development.

"Often in our community we encourage non-profit organizations to collaborate. Here we have one of the finest examples coming true with the Y and Easterseals," said Dr. Jerry Oakey, an orthopedic surgeon. "I am so excited by the project. I can see so much good coming from this project. Few projects will benefit the entire community like this – children, young adults, families, seniors – even my patients – everyone will benefit through this project."

"Easterseals does so much for young people in our community and to have a new state of the art Y facility, that can serve the whole family just makes so much sense," added Dr. Laura Randolph. "Physicians in this community are so generous with their time and talent, and Jerry and I felt we needed to contribute to helping this dream come true."

YMCA CEO and capital campaign director BJ Wilken says the support of the medical community is critical to the mission of both the YMCA and Easterseals. "The mission of Easterseals and the Y is that of a health care mission. From fostering healthy lifestyles, to providing rehabilitative services, to special needs services for youth, even to providing a

support system of those with medical issues, we are so proud to see this generosity from the entire medical community." Last year, the joint project received the endorsement of OSF Healthcare St. Joseph Medical Center with a donation of six acres of land along East Washington Street for the site for a future YMCA.

The Oakey Family challenge to the medical community will bring the fundraising close to meeting the anonymous family's challenge which expires December 31st. Wilken says the total now stands at \$12 million toward a goal of \$16 million. "We hope to be into the home stretch in early 2019, and with the support of the Oakey's and others, our confidence just continues to grow and grow."

Capital Campaign Co-Chair Steve Snyder called the Oakey challenge, "just what the doctor ordered," adding that the Oakey's commitment to healthy lifestyles speaks volume. Julie Dobski, fellow campaign co-Chair, noted the Oakey's gift has already inspired other medical professionals to open their hearts and wallets. "Physicians know firsthand what this community needs and nothing fits that bill like this YMCA/Easterseals facility. I already feel better!"

About the YMCA: Established in 1855, the Bloomington-Normal YMCA is the oldest continually existing human service organization in McLean County. Serving more than 5000 people annually, the YMCA is dedicated to instilling Christian principles through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. As a charitable, non profit organization, the Y seeks to establish programming in the community for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

About Easterseals of Central Illinois: Easter Seals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for nearly 100 years. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities, Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.