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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee 414-313-9622

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ANNOUNCE CARRIE WALL AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO AND RICHARD SCHMIDT AS BOARD CHAIR

**May 26, 2017 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin–** The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee announced today that Carrie Wall has been appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1. She will succeed Jack Takerian, interim President and CEO, who previously announced his intention to leave the Milwaukee Y on June 30.

The Milwaukee Y also announced today that Richard "Rick" Schmidt, President and CEO of C.G. Schmidt, a values-based construction management and general contracting firm, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors. His term begins immediately.

Wall currently serves as the President and CEO of the YMCA of Dane County, a position she has held since 2010. She brings more than 30 years of experience in operations, fundraising, community programming and staff development to the role. Prior to that she was the Vice President of Operations at the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. She began her career at the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, serving for 20 years in various operations, fundraising and executive roles.

"We are excited to welcome Carrie back to the Milwaukee Y," said Richard Canter, outgoing Chairman of the Board of the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee. "Carrie is a purpose driven leader who brings an unwavering commitment to the mission of the Y, along with a proven track record of high performance. Under the capable leadership of Rick Schmidt, incoming Board Chairman, Carrie will be well supported by a dedicated team of employees and volunteers who care deeply about the urban mission of the Milwaukee Y."

During her tenure, the YMCA of Dane County grew to be recognized as one of the highest performing mid-sized Y's in the country. Along with the management team there, Wall led the development and implementation of a strategic plan that saw improvements in net income, increases in philanthropic contributions, reinvestment

in vital systems and software, over \$2 million in facilities improvements and a number of strategic partnerships that expanded the reach and impact of the Y's mission throughout Dane county. The YMCA of Dane County operates three full service centers, serves more than 30,000 members and is the largest licensed provider of child care and early education in Dane County.

In 2016, the Milwaukee Y posted earnings of \$946,000 driven by strong programming, steady membership and the generosity of the Y's many committed benefactors. These results come on the heels of a multi-year restructuring process that left the organization debt-free, with a smaller, more focused footprint, and a renewed urban mission to ensure more Milwaukee families build healthy, productive lives.

"I have been more than just an interested observer of the Milwaukee Y's revitalization over the past few years, and am sincerely impressed by and grateful for all they've accomplished" said Wall. "I have a deep appreciation for the hard work, perseverance and dedication demonstrated by this team, and I look forward to working with my colleagues, the Milwaukee Y board and all its community partners to help the Milwaukee Y continue to flourish."

Wall received her bachelor's degree from Alverno College, and is an active community citizen, serving on the UW Health OB/GYN Advisory Board, the Downtown Madison Rotary, and the Pius XI High School Alumni Association, among others. In 2016, *In Business* magazine recognized Wall in its "Women of Industry" leadership issue.

"As we prepare to welcome Carrie, we also express our highest gratitude to Jack Takerian, interim President and CEO, for his dedication to the Milwaukee Y. We are grateful for his leadership, and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors," said Schmidt. "Moreover, we thank Richard Canter for his stewardship of our Board of Directors and for his long commitment to the mission of the Y. His insights and skills will continue to be put to great use as he serves on our Board of Directors."

## About the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and walks of life joined together by a shared vision to create a healthier, stronger and safer Milwaukee where families of all incomes and backgrounds truly thrive.

Supported by the generosity and vision of our benefactors, the Milwaukee Y offers solutions that reduce health issues that plague our community, such as chronic diseases and preventable injuries; provides safe places seven-days-a-week where kids can have fun, families can gather and seniors can build meaningful connections; serves as an access point for vital community needs, such as preventative health care and reliable, safe before- and after-school care; partners with families, schools and other non-profits to help kids grow into productive adults; and makes fitness fun and accessible for all.

Comprising five locations throughout the Milwaukee area, as well as YMCA Camp Minikani on the shores of Lake Amy Belle in Hubertus, Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Y has been a part of the lives of the greater Milwaukee area's kids and families since 1858. For more information, visit <u>www.ymcamke.org.</u>

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