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For Immediate Release

FORT WORTH YMCA WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT & CEO MIKE BROWN

Fort Worth, Texas – Wednesday, Jan 13th, 2021 — The YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth welcomes **new President and CEO Mike Brown** to the community. Brown brings over 18 years of extensive Y CEO experience with associations and staff of similar size as the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth. He has a strategic approach to community engagement, innovative delivery of programs for teens and families, and a bold and progressive approach to diversity and inclusion. Brown will work to continue strategic partnerships as well as seek to build new community partnerships with business and local governments.

Most recently, Brown comes to Fort Worth from the YMCA of Central New York where he served as President and CEO with an operating budget of \$24 million and over 1,500 full-time staff. Brown is not new to Texas, as he served as Executive Director at the YMCA of Greater Houston for almost 6 years before serving as the President and CEO of the YMCA of Rock River in Illinois prior to his tenure in Central New York.

Brown joins the Fort Worth Y during this unprecedented and challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Y was forced to close for 74 days in 2020, it continued servicing to the community through new and modified programs and outreach efforts. The Y provided 200,000 meals and snacks to those suffering from food insecurity, and provided essential child care to over 1,750 children through two continually operating pre-schools, a new Distance Learning Support program for online learners, summer day camp and after school initiatives.

Brown is excited to be joining the Fort Worth and Tarrant County community. The Fort Worth Y Search Committee vetted more than 60 candidates from all over the country who were interested in joining this dynamic, 130-year old non-profit organization.

“The YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth offers an opportunity for expanded impact and reach to the entire 5-county service region. The opportunity to build a strategic plan to enhance community programs and strengthen the Y’s financial future is exciting to me”, said Mike Brown.

Brown takes over from Tony Shuman who served as President and CEO of the Fort Worth Y for almost 20 years and retired last fall. Brown is determined to build on the achievements by Shuman and propel the Fort Worth YMCA forward through the launch of a new 5-year strategic plan.

“The Board of Directors excitedly welcomes Mike Brown to our YMCA. Through innovative vision and strategic leadership, the Y embraces cause-driven work to deepen our reach to individuals, families, and the greater community. By aligning with the three core focus areas, and Brown’s leadership in our association, the YMCA will continue to be a catalyst for change and recognized as a stakeholder and collaborator in the greater Fort Worth area,” says Julie Wilson, chair of the YMCA Board of Directors.

Notable achievements for Brown include significant partnerships with hospitals, school districts, universities and the greater community. Brown holds two master's degrees in human services: one in Leadership & Development and another in Organizational Leadership. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Management degree. He is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive and is a certified YMCA Organizational Leader. Additionally, he has served as adjunct professor for two universities in Illinois and Wisconsin teaching Intro to Human Services, Non-Profit Management, Financial Management, and Social Welfare Policy.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth was established in 1890 and briefly closed its doors last spring for the first time ever due to the impact of COVID-19. It reopened last summer with new health and safety protocols and guidelines to keep members and guests safe. Guests can visit the Y for membership, group exercise, day camps, swim lessons, personal training while maintaining social distancing guidelines. The Y is committed to helping people stay physically active, being mentally well while supporting the community in a variety of ways throughout the pandemic.

Mike Brown will have an office at the Amon G. Carter, Jr. Downtown Fort Worth branch and can be reached at mbrown@ymcafw.org.

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About YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth

With 131 years of service to the Fort Worth area, the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth serves more than 150,000 unique individuals on an annual basis. Its work impacts our community daily through programs that emphasize youth development, encourage healthy living, and empower social responsibility. The non-profit organization offers diverse family programs including youth sports, youth and government, camping, childcare, swimming and drowning prevention, wellness, diabetes management, and senior-specific adult programs in addition to fitness memberships. The Y has branches in Tarrant, Johnson, and Hood counties. Additionally, it owns and operates YMCA Camp Carter, a year-round facility offering both day-camp programs and residential opportunities for youth. It also owns and operates the YMCA Sports Complex in southwest Fort Worth, providing soccer, baseball, and other youth sports opportunities. To learn more about the Y, visit: www.ymcafw.org.

