

# around the metro

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## North YMCA plans expansion to refocus on kids

• The \$6 million project would move adult activities to a new location, improve the aquatic center and add meeting rooms.

By AISHA EADY  
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The North Community YMCA wants a makeover to restore its more youthful glow.

So many adults are taking up space at the popular “Y” in north Minneapolis that it’s not able to accommodate those who need it the most —

the thousands of kids who live within a mile of the building, said Harold Mezile, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Minneapolis.

As a result, Mezile said, the North Community “Y, at 1711 W. Broadway, has embarked on an expansion project designed to double its capacity.

The expansion, which will cost

an estimated \$6 million, will allow the “Y” to move its adult programs to a new location at the NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, 1313 Penn Av. N., and to serve more of the neighborhood kids.

The Cargill Foundation has already announced that it will contribute \$2.5 million.

The building would be renamed the North Community YMCA Youth and Family Enrichment Center.

The plan would expand the aquat-

ic center, add equipment to the fitness room and add meeting rooms for learning programs such as Hispanic Achievers and Black Achievers.

About the proposed expansion, Mezile said: “Young people will have a safe place to go, and that place will be focused on young people.”

It would also provide more employment opportunities for young people.

Mezile said he hopes the Cargill

gift will encourage more corporate giving.

“It truly is a leadership gift that we hope will be a catalyst to the entire corporate community,” he said.

Cargill’s gift, to be distributed over five years, is the largest corporate contribution ever received by the YMCA of Metropolitan Minneapolis.

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