

Tyson grant will fund new cardio equipment at YMCA

by Mitchell Kirk Staff reporter | Posted: Friday, October 3, 2014 3:36 pm

The Cass County Family YMCA is getting more than \$24,000 in new cardiovascular exercise equipment thanks to a donation from a Logansport business.

Representatives of Tyson Foods, Inc. presented the YMCA with a check for \$24,500 Friday, Oct. 3. The donation contributed toward an ongoing relationship between Tyson and the Y, as the funds will go toward replacing equipment the company first donated the funds for about seven years ago.

"Our local Y means different things to so many different people," said Jim Hayden, chairman of the Cass County Family YMCA Board of Directors.

He added these roles include improving physical fitness, keeping young people engaged in constructive activities, allowing athletes to work on their skills and serving as a place to meet friends.

"It's not just a fitness center," Hayden continued. "It's so much more. It brings the community together. Without a financial backing, we could not fulfill our roles in this community."

Tyson has always stepped up to help the YMCA fulfill these roles, Hayden said.

Brent Kelley, executive director of the Cass County Family YMCA, agreed.

"You're back at the plate today doing it again," Kelley told Tyson representatives Friday. "...Without the generous gifts like Tyson has given today, it makes our work very difficult."

Anna Kimble-Roberson, assistant manager of Community Relations Corporate Affairs with Tyson, said relationships like the one with the local YMCA is part of the company's mission.

"One of our cultural tenants is we care about each other, we take care of the communities where our team members live and work," she said.

Wayne Kies, complex manager at Tyson's Logansport location, said the company is honored to carry on this relationship.

"We couldn't make these things happen without our 1,800 team members," many of whom are local YMCA members, Kies said.

Kelley said the YMCA plans to use the funds to replace treadmills in its Fitness Center on its main floor and add an Arc Trainer, a cross between an elliptical and a stair-stepper. The facility has already added

one of these machines, which has been well received, Kelley said.

"It's a very popular machine," he said, adding members responded positively to demos and in surveys.

"The membership base loves it."

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