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PRESS RELEASE: MORE THAN A GYM. Members of the Rochester Area Family YMCA work together to clean up the city.

Rochester, MN – April 13th, 2017 Candy bar wrappers, cigarette butts and other garbage litter our streets and landscaping and seems to show up more as the winter weather backs away and spring approaches. A local resident of Rochester, Sandy MacLaughlin, is stepping up with others from the Y to work together for a cleaner community. Volunteers can join Sandy as she helps clean up Rochester on April 24th at 6pm at the Rochester Area Family YMCA, 709 1st Ave SW, Rochester, MN, 55902.

Ten years ago, Sandy MacLaughlin and her husband moved from NW Rochester to the downtown area. It was then she noticed on her walks the amount of trash and cigarette butts in the streets and gutters near the Y and local businesses.

Sandy, an active member of the Y's Silver@Sneaker program and member of A Litter Bit Better City Campaign, has been sharing the message to become involved in cleaning up the outdoor areas of the Y. The Y is located by Soldier's Field and is close to the bike and walking paths for the city, areas that are used frequently by residents and visitors of Rochester.

"The whole area around the YMCA would only take about 30 minutes depending on how many people show up. A dozen volunteers would be terrific." said Sandy.

Why pick it up? It makes the grounds look better, you're setting a positive example for our youth, it's good for the environment and it's a community building project.

Over the past 10 years, the Litter Bit Better campaign has recruited over 29,0000 volunteers that have picked up 122 tons of litter.

If you're interested in helping with A Litter Bit Better city pick up meet on April 24th at 6:00pm at the YMCA Information Desk. Rain date will be April 25th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to be part of this group and help make our city cleaner. Show up that day to help or RSVP at jessw@rochfamy.org

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About the Y

The Rochester Area Family YMCA has been part of the Rochester community since 1867, when a reading room for young men was organized. The Y continues to be one of the leading nonprofits that strengthens the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. This organization helps the community, regardless of age, income or background and has provided over 2,700 individuals in the community a membership through the Open Doors Scholarship program in 2016. More information can be found at <http://www.rochfamy.org>.