



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**  
Elaina Kempin, Marketing  
YMCA of Rapid City  
605-719-5081  
elaina@rcymca.org

## YMCA OF RAPID CITY AWARDED \$35,000 TO FUEL BLACK HILLS AREA YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOLD AMBITIONS

**Rapid City, SD June 5, 2024** – Today, the YMCA of Rapid City received a \$35,000 grant from the Taco Bell Foundation to support youth in the Rapid City community. The funds will go toward Y memberships for teens so they can utilize the Y and participate in programs at the Y Teen Center. Through the Y Teen Center, teens have access to career readiness workshops, mentoring, digital and graphic design classes and other programs that educate and inspire the next generation of leaders.

"The Taco Bell Foundation has been a wonderful Y partner over the years in educating and inspiring young people nationwide and especially here in the Black Hills." said Keiz Larson, CEO of the YMCA of Rapid City. "Together, we are working to break down barriers to educate teens to be our future leaders."

The Rapid City YMCA is one of more than 450+ youth-serving organizations that will receive a portion of the nearly \$23 million in Community Grants presented by the Taco Bell Foundation this year. The grants are an example of the Taco Bell Foundation's mission to break down barriers to education and fuel young people's boldest ambitions.

"Our Community Grants program is unique, because the funds are dispersed back to organizations in the local community they are raised in," said Neil Borkan, Chairman of the Taco Bell Foundation. "We are so thankful for the generosity of our partners, customers and Taco Bell team members that make it possible for us to continue serving youth across the country."

### ***About the Taco Bell Foundation***

Taco Bell Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity that helps America's young people pursue their educational goals and career aspirations. Since 1992, the Taco Bell Foundation has reached more than 5 million young people across the country and has awarded over \$188 million in grants and scholarships, focused on education and career readiness. For more information about the Taco Bell Foundation, visit [tacobellfoundation.org](http://tacobellfoundation.org).

### ***About the Rapid City Y***

Driven by its founding mission, the Rapid City Y has served as a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community for more than 76 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y's goal is to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across 10,000 communities nationwide. Learn more at [rcymca.org](http://rcymca.org)

###