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## **LIBERTY CENTER YMCA RECEIVES COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION LEADER AWARD**

*Recognized by the Box Elder Chamber of Commerce.*

BOX ELDER, SD February 27, 2025 – Since opening in 2022, the Liberty Center YMCA has become a cornerstone of Box Elder - uniting families, seniors, and active-duty airmen. The center is honored to be awarded the Community Revitalization Leader Award from the Box Elder Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting held Tuesday, February 25 at the Box Elder Community Center.

Sandy Larson, Box Elder Chamber of Commerce President states, "The Liberty Center is well-deserving of this award. Their Hero Sponsorship covers six-month memberships for E-1 to E-4 service members, bridging the military-civilian gap. With membership surpassing 2,000 they create a safe, positive space - especially for teens - where they can connect and thrive. By offering GED classes, celebrating the first graduate in December, 2024, it underscores their commitment to education."

Larson continues, "Staff and volunteers contribute to local events like Patriot Day, strengthening civic ties. Hosting gatherings such as Healthy Kids Day, with over 200 attendees, draws visitors from neighboring towns, boosting community engagement. By offering inclusive programs and fostering a sense of belonging, the Liberty Center YMCA energizes our region's vitality."

"We are humbled and honored to be recognized by the Box Elder Chamber and receive the Community Revitalization Leader Award for 2024," states Elaina Kempin, Marketing Director, YMCA of Rapid City. "At the YMCA, we believe in bringing people together and are proud to be a part of Box Elder's vibrant community and exciting growth."

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### **About the YMCA of Rapid City**

Driven by its founding mission, the YMCA of Rapid City 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).