



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Media Advisory

2/14/23

Innovative “Storybook Maze” Book Vending Machine Installed at the Y Swim Center in Randallstown to Provide Free Books for Children.

What: Ribbon-cutting event, sponsored by Wellpoint, with storytelling, games, crafts and giveaways.

When: Saturday, Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: The Y Swim Center in Randallstown
3505 Resource Drive
Randallstown, MD 21133

Contact for More Information:

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Background: Librarian Araba Maze created The Storybook Maze to help eliminate book deserts. She characterizes herself as “a radical street librarian working to increase book access”. The vending machine works by placing a token into the machine and selecting the book of your choice. Books are appropriate for children up through grade 8. Wellpoint is the sponsor, covering the cost of the machine, replenishment books, and the tokens which will be distributed to the children at the Y for free. The books are then theirs to keep.

Says Derryck Fletcher, Chief Operating Officer of the Y in Central Maryland, “I am so excited to see this innovative program launch at the Y Swim Center in Randallstown. I hope it’s the beginning of a long and good partnership with The Storybook Maze and I am grateful to Wellpoint for making this possible. Bringing books to where the children are directly supports the Y’s Youth Development strategy which centers around equity in education; helping all children to thrive and live to their fullest potential.”

“As an organization committed to promoting whole health and health equity, Wellpoint understands the critical role reading plays on health literacy, future health outcomes and lives,” said Vincent M. Ancona, President of Wellpoint Maryland. “Research demonstrates that reading on a regular basis can help reduce stress, improve mental health, and help youth build the literacy they need to achieve better, stronger futures. Therefore, we are proud to support the Y’s youth development strategy by bringing the Storybook Maze to children in Central Maryland.

ABOUT THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND

Our Mission:

The Y is a charitable organization in Central Maryland dedicated to developing the full potential of every individual through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Our Commitment:

At the Y, we are committed to providing family-oriented, affordable, high quality programs.

A cause driven organization with three areas of vital focus:

- *For Youth Development:* nurturing the potential of every child and teen
- *For Healthy Living:* improving our community's health & well-being
- *For Social Responsibility:* giving back and providing support for our neighbors

The Y is a place for everyone. People of all races, ages, faiths, gender, abilities, backgrounds and incomes are welcome and financial assistance on a sliding scale is available to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Our Values:

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

For more information, please visit www.ymaryland.org

ABOUT WELLPOINT

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