



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Jeff and the Racine YMCA Building Committee:

I am happy to write and communicate our utmost satisfaction with Horizon regarding the work they have done and will be doing for us at the Kettle Moraine YMCA in West Bend, WI. Our Y is undergoing a \$4 million family adventure pool addition and Horizon has played an important and integral role on the design, development and construction as a design assist general contractor. From the beginning of our relationship, over two years prior to ground breaking, which occurred just last week, they have exceeded our expectations by diligently working with us and Zimmerman Architects to insure that the design meets our expectations and is within budget. During the design process, Horizon identified several value engineering opportunities and discussed the pros and cons of each one with us. Horizon also engaged Focus on Energy early in the project to provide energy efficient mechanical solutions and maximize incentives returned to us. Horizon's experienced staff also provided a comprehensive energy audit to enhance our building efficiency and looked at operational impacts of the facility from lifeguarding to costs of operations.

One area that I am confident that they will save you significant money on is in the aquatics. Horizon is truly the leader in design and constructing facilities that incorporate aquatics. With my past experience in Beaver Dam, WI for the YMCA of Dodge County, I found out that many of the design firms represent different equipment manufacturers and they often try to write in the specifications of these lines of equipment. Horizon is truly independent and will fight to use the best product for the best situation. In their efforts at our Y they saved us over \$100K in value engineering. Several of our specifications were overkill and did not justify the added expense to the project. Horizon explained all of these items in person so everyone including the architect knew what the end product would truly represent.

Horizon also understands the challenges that Y's face with capital campaigns and agreed to hold their price for six months. This enabled us to secure the proper financing while maintaining the budget. We sent our project for bid in late Feb. early March and were able to hold our prices until late October. Most contractors would not be able to do this, but because of Horizon's experience, and ability to attract multiple bids for all of the disciplines, we were able to hold pricing until we reached our fundraising goal.

I would highly recommend Horizon for your project as a company with high integrity, easy to work with, and capability to get the job done within the timeframe they promise and the budget they project. Please feel free to contact me if you have specific questions about our experience with Horizon. I would be happy to meet with your group in person or over the phone to explain the whole process to thoroughly help your volunteers understand what they are embarking on.

Sincerely,

Rob Johnson, Executive Director
Kettle Moraine YMCA-262-247-1006