

YMCA Raises \$19,400 to support kids and families

Written by Administrator

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Annual Support Campaign to Provide Needed Program and Membership Scholarships. Goal for this year's campaign is \$20,000.

Under the leadership of Glenn Luckett and Alice Bartanen, the Washington County YMCA Annual Support campaign has raised \$19,440 in charitable contributions for the Washington County YMCA to support membership scholarships and programs that change lives; the total goal is of \$20,000. Staff and Volunteers are working to raise the additional funds. More than 20 volunteers solicited funds from 70 community members and businesses. The campaign saw a 45% percent increase in donations over last year's campaign, which generated \$11,000 in contributions from 45 donors.

Proceeds from the Annual Support campaign go to the Washington County YMCA scholarship fund, which assists those who may not otherwise be able to afford to pay the full fee for memberships or programs. The scholarship fund offers programs such as after school, day camp and swim lessons to low-income children and families at reduced rates. The YMCA uses a sliding scale based on need to determine what fee, if any, is required.

"These gifts provide scholarships for individuals and families who want and need YMCA programs but cannot afford them," said Jon Hill, Executive Director, "At the Y, kids not only learn how to play a sport, but they also learn about caring, honesty, respect and responsibility—core values than can guide them throughout their lives. The Annual Support Campaign connects kids in need to programs that help them grow in confidence and self-esteem."

"The success of the campaign can be attributed to the commitment of our volunteers and staff and the community to the YMCA," said Glenn Luckett. "The overwhelming generosity of the community allows us to continue bringing our positive programs to those who need it most. With everyone's help, we are now able to give kids and families greater access to the wonderful opportunities offered at the Y."

On average, more than 10 percent of the YMCA's 2000 members receive financial assistance each year. The program assisted more than 200 members of the community last year; the majority of these were children and youth. In 2008, The YMCA awarded financial assistance totaling over \$24,000.

"As an asset to the community in Washington County, our mission-driven YMCA is 'a place to belong' and to live the values that guide and unite our members: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility," said Glenn Luckett. "The Annual Support campaign is an investment in the future where, through the generosity of the community, kids can take part in healthy activities, families can enjoy the supportive environment of the Y and teens can learn valuable life skills."

The Washington County YMCA currently has 2000 members and serves an additional 1000 Washington County residents through programs. The YMCA currently offers day camp, after school, soccer, soccer camp, pre school, karate, kickboxing, swim team, swim lessons, water aerobics, lap swimming, gymnastics, youth basketball, cpr, first aid, lifeguard training, indoor cycling, pilates, yoga, step aerobics, boot camp, biggest loser, informal education, fitness coaches, youth fitness, sports conditioning, middle school nights, 5k run and special events. Call the YMCA at 883-8495 for program, membership, and volunteer opportunities.