



YMCA Donor Dollars at Work
March 2010 Newsletter



Invest in Tomorrow's Leaders



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Greetings Friends,

I find myself in awe of the talented athletes who competed in the Winter Olympics. Whether they won or lost, their dedication, hard work and sacrifice is truly admirable. Their long journey begins with a dream sparked by a desire for excellence. It is our job as parents, educators, program directors and community members to fan our children's dreams and spark them into full fledged flames. Our Central City YMCA Teen Achiever Program does just that.

Teen Achievers provides inspiration and guidance to students in setting goals to graduate from high school, gain entry into college and ultimately embark on a career of their choosing. While the program is open to all Joliet Township students, the target group is socio-economically disadvantaged children. Participants to date have been teens of color, generally from low income families, and are often the first family member to seek college level education. Many come from female led, single parent homes. Mothers of these children are challenged with the overwhelming task of helping these children build a better life. The YMCA is pleased to partner with these families, mentoring their youth to achieve their dreams. Thanks to the support of our generous donors and volunteers, since 2005 the program has grown by 81%. Teen Achievers has enjoyed a 100% success rate, advancing all 23 Achiever graduates to college. This is an example of how the YMCA builds strong kids, strong families and strong communities; our winter youth basketball league is yet another.

The volunteerism of our Youth Basketball League coaches, and the generosity of our team sponsors, is especially heartwarming during the cold winter sports season. YBL could not exist without their support. Forest Park school principal Dr. Philip Hickman coaches his students in this league because, "These activities teach kids skills that are necessary to be successful in life. Perseverance, hard work, leadership, communication, dealing with loss and working as a team... where can a child better learn all of these things at one time but on a team?" It is a privilege and a pleasure for the YMCA to partner with so many wonderful volunteers. An old proverb reads "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Thank you, donors and volunteers, for helping to raise the children of our villages and communities!

Kindest Regards,

Tami Sender
President/CEO

Greater Joliet Area YMCA
749 Houbolt Rd
Joliet, IL 60431
www.jolietymca.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Joliet, IL
PERMIT No.25

ANNUAL GIVING & GRANT DOLLARS AT WORK

THANK YOU YBL SPONSORS, VOLUNTEER COACHES AND OTHER DONORS!

CAPITAL & GRANT SUPPORT

Every player makes the team at the YMCA!



YBL FACTS:

- Nearly 1200 youth grades 1st-senior high learned about teamwork in YMCA Youth Basketball
- 106 teams of students from 13 school districts
- 158 volunteer coaches donated their time to the 10-11 week programs with team sponsorship support from 24 local businesses
- Association wide, 1 out of every 8 participants received a YMCA program or membership scholarship

Thanks to our donors, no one is turned away for the inability to pay!

CENTRAL CITY YBL FACTS:

- Over 300 children in YBL/ Cheerleading program
- 8 Joliet District 86 & Laraway Schools participated for 20 weeks at no charge
- 17 co-ed basketball/cheerleading teams coached by 13 volunteer coaches
- Hundreds of family & friends attended the Feb. 20th All Star YBL/Cheerleading Event



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CENTRAL CITY YBL DONORS/SUPPORTERS

- Caterpillar
- Holly Club
- United Way of Will County
- Joliet District 86 Schools
- District 70 Laraway School
- Joliet Township High School



ALL STAR CHEERLEADING EXHIBITION JUDGES

(left to right), Michael Noonan CPA- Chair YMCA Metro Board of Directors, Joliet Councilman Tim Brophy with daughter Taylor, Yolanda Coleman -Program Coordinator for Joliet District 86, Sarah Oprzedek- United Way of Will County, & Deb Strahanoski- 2010-11 Holly Club President & Easter Seals Special Events Coordinator



GRANTS:



Zonta Club of Joliet

The YMCA Teen Achievers Program was thrilled to be selected as the 2009-2011 Zonta Club service organization. Numerous Zontarians have taken time out of their busy professional lives to speak to the Achievers about college preparation and career opportunities throughout the school year. A program grant will also be forthcoming as a result of the proceeds from the annual February luncheon. Thank you Zonta Club of Joliet for your invaluable service work and generous grant support!

(Front row left to right)- Pat Fera, Karen Pastell, Jo Ann Potenziani, Cathy Block (Back row) Lissa Dow, Donna Zanzola, Karen Block, Paige Vanderhyden, Maurice Fears, Cathy Molck. Not pictured: Bonnie Covelli, Debbie Militelo, B.J. Ray & Terri Wintermute



2009 College Tour to Washington D.C. Area - Achievers Visited the Capital, The University of Maryland, Howard University and Georgetown University

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Thanks to mygofer's community improvement project with a gift in kind of \$10,000, the former Nautilus Room at the Smith Family YMCA was transformed into an exciting new Activity Center. The Center opened December 8th in record time as a result of mygofer's generosity and hard work. It has a fresh new look, complete with 2 Nintendo Wii games, Dance Dance Revolution, a ping pong table, net book computer, board games and plenty of furniture for all ages to enjoy. This exciting new room expands the Smith Family YMCA's opportunities for education, recreation, exercise and socialization for children, families & seniors. Thank You mygofer!!



ADDITIONAL GRANTS:

Joliet Rotary- Thank you for the Project SOAR Welfare grant, enabling disadvantaged Joliet area children the opportunity to learn to swim and enjoy Smith Family YMCA Activities & Recreation.

Crane Fund for Widows & Children- Thank you for assisting Joliet's disadvantaged families by making it possible to enroll their children in the Central City YMCA Nine week Summer Day Camp.

