



December 31, 2010

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**Farewell From Tami Sender**



Tami Sender  
Retiring CEO

Tom Sutter  
Incoming CEO



**Greater Joliet Area YMCA**  
749 Houbolt Rd  
Joliet, IL 60431  
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WOW! I can still remember that day back in 1984 when I began what has become a 27 year career with the Greater Joliet Area YMCA. At the time, I had no idea that I would eventually serve as the President and CEO of such a well-known, highly respected community organization. It all began when I was hired as a program director. My job was to provide swim and gym programs for the youth, adults, families and seniors in Will County. Since I had been an athlete all of my life, I thoroughly enjoyed organizing, promoting and running these programs.

Fast forward to when I discovered what the YMCA was really about. The Y 's mission focuses on helping people build relationships through programs and memberships that result in healthy spirits, minds and bodies for all. Regardless of the YMCA program - whether it is an after school program, summer day camp, youth basketball league, or a senior fitness class - our goal is to provide high quality, values driven programs all of the time to everyone! That translates into fair play, respect for each other and behaving in a way that GOD expects us to.

Open to everyone? Yes, to EVERYONE! As a non- profit, charitable 501(c)3 organization, the YMCA is proud of the fact that "no one is turned away for the inability to pay." Nearly ONE MILLION DOLLARS are provided in financial assistance annually to youth, families and seniors who qualify for assistance. Single parent families, seniors living on limited income, adults finding themselves jobless, youth who cannot afford membership fees, and families going through "life's challenges" are all welcome at the YMCA!

As my career advanced from Program Director to Executive Director to President and CEO, facilities have closed, been renovated and even a new Y was built. Participant numbers have increased. As I retire from the YMCA, I am very proud of all that we have accomplished to date. Most importantly, I'm certain that the future of the YMCA is secure. Facilities and programs may change as our community's needs require, but the mission of the YMCA will always remain the same.

I extend to you my heartfelt thanks for sharing your time, your talents and your treasures to assure that YMCA programs and services are available to all!

With Much Love and Appreciation ~

Tami Sender



Board Members & Supporters- Immediate Past Y Board Chair Don DeGeus, Dr. Mike and Susan Lee, Dr. Bob Larson, Dr. Steve Morimoto, Mary Lou Larson, Mike Hanson and Ed Dollinger



Y Board Members Kathy Kazmar, Victoria Matway & Diane Racich



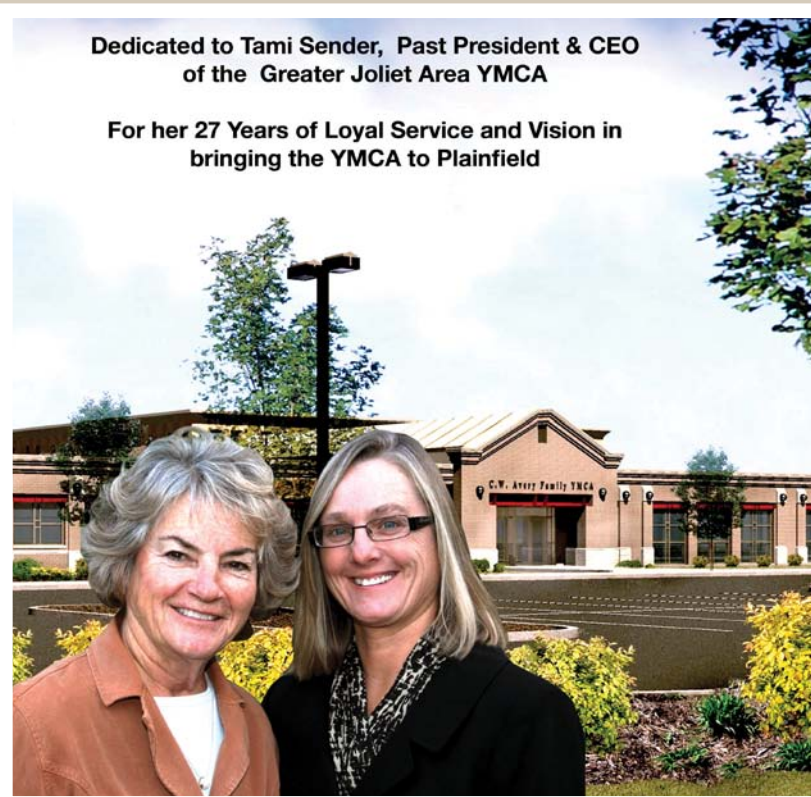
Friends of the Y Cliff & Rita Berglund



Tami Sender with brother Lee, sister Darin, and parents Pat and Lee Sender



Tami Sender with sister in law Jennifer Sender and nephews Alex, Daniel, Nicholas and Jackson



C.W. Avery Family YMCA Namesake Judy Avery and Tami Sender will be featured on the donor board at the Avery Y in honor of Sender's retirement

Tami Sender celebrated 27 years of service in a room filled with admiring friends, family, staff and volunteers at the Renaissance Center on November 17th. She officially retired on December 31, 2010. Several speakers paid tribute to Sender for her dedication and tenacity throughout her life and career. Goals were set early in Tami's life. She was a 4 year starting guard on Millikin University's women's basketball team and a 3 year All American. After college, Sender spent one year teaching high school and then joined the Joliet Y as a Physical Program Director. Since then she has steadily climbed the ladder to become the first female President/CEO of the Greater Joliet Area Y in

October of 2003. Sender credits her success to "a terrific staff, committed and involved board/council members, and dedicated donors." She expressed great confidence in the many talents of her successor, Greater Joliet YMCA COO Tom Sutter. A YMCA Endowment Fund has been established in Sender's name to help support the Y motto that no one is turned away for the inability to pay. The Y's charitable mission has been especially important to Sender, who has generated over \$1 Million dollars in endowment funds during her career. Many of these gifts further the Y's strong charitable outreach to the underserved of our communities.

**Major accomplishments & Awards:**

- "Woman of Vision" in 2002- Illinois Woman's Bar Association
- 2006 Director of the Year Award- AYP
- Initiated Before and After School Programs & the Youth Basketball Program in the Plainfield community
- Lead the effort to bring the C. W. Avery Family YMCA to the Plainfield community in 2006, raising \$12.3 Million for the Capital Campaign
- Three prestigious national YMCA awards for excellence in Fundraising and Facility Design for the C. W. Avery Family YMCA



The Past, Present & Future- Former Y CEO Larry Hemdal, Tami Sender and CEO/President-Elect Tom Sutter



Tami Sender's nephew Jackson enjoying the cake



Tribute Speakers- Susan Lee, Sandy Cowgill, Ron Kazmar, Tami Sender, Darin Sender, Tom Sutter and Dr. John Harper



Board Members Max Zollner & wife Marilyn with Rhoda Schirmer



Lee Sender and long time Y Board Member & friend Bill Lauer



Tami Sender with friends Nick and Dee Frausto



Tami Sender with Y Board Member Ron Evenson & wife Jannine



Y Board members & Supporters- Dan Stevenson, Dave Weber, current Y Board Chair Mike Noonan, Rick Snyder, Mike Hanson, and Eric Hanson