

Dear Friend of the YMCA,

Fall 2006

Strong Kids Campaign 2006

In 2006, more than 4,100 people have already received financial assistance from the Strong Kids Scholarship program. Thirty-two children were able to attend day camp; 622 families have received help to pay for childcare; 130 children grew in spirit, mind and body at Camp Nan A Bo Sho; 607 people have improved their lives by taking YMCA programs; and 2,764 people have received YMCA membership benefits. With your help, we are able to build spirit, mind and body in all people who desire to take advantage of our facilities and programs. Thank you for helping us meet our mission and make the Fox Cities a better place to live and work.

Camp Nan A Bo Sho

Youth at Camp Nan A Bo Sho prepare to go canoeing



Singing songs around a campfire; canoeing, sailing, and swimming in Waubee Lake; testing yourself on the high ropes course and climbing wall; creating arts and crafts projects; building independence and self-esteem that will last for a lifetime. All these activities are the essence of a camp experience and were enjoyed by 854 children this past summer during week-long sessions at Camp Nan A Bo Sho.

For 124 children this summer, Strong Kids scholarships made a camp experience possible. Each summer, about one of every seven children at camp are receiving financial assistance, ranging from \$40 to \$455 per child, depending on the family's circumstances and the program the child is attending.

One mother whose three children received Strong Kids Scholarships said, "We can not afford to pay full price for all three children to go to camp. The kids have minimal visitation with their dad. At camp, they experience many great values and opportunities that will help them develop into better human beings. Thank you."

What difference can a resident camp experience make to a child? For some, it is an opportunity to eat as much food as they like at three meals a day. For others, camp provides a chance to spend time with positive role models. For others still, it is a chance to test their mettle and gain some much-needed self-confidence. Camp provides unique benefits for each child, and the value is proportionate to the child's needs.

Rob Rathsack, director of Camp Nan A Bo Sho, says he considers it a triumph when he sees a child develop independence in the course of a week. "One of my favorite things is to see a child crying because he doesn't want to leave, after he was crying because he didn't want to be left here. A child can make a quantum leap in his confidence in only one week."

Camp Nan A Bo Sho is also helping us grow our next generation of leaders through its Leadership Camp. Seventy-five teens, nominated by their schools' staff, spent a week at Camp Nan A Bo Sho focusing on leadership skills such as building a team, managing group and individual activities, building trust, setting a good example, and developing core values. Six of the teens attending leadership camp received financial assistance through Strong Kids funds.

Events Supporting the Strong Kids Campaign

Strong Kids Day at North Shore Golf Club Exceeds \$52,000 Goal

Sponsors, volunteers, golfers, and afternoon participants joined to raise more than \$55,000 for the Strong Kids Campaign on Monday, August 28, 2006. Golf Outing event sponsor Commercial Horizons' Paul Klister said, "It's great to see so many people having fun and raising money for such a good cause. We are thrilled that the event has generated more than \$200,000 in its six years for YMCA memberships, programs, child care and camps."

Mark your calendars next year for Monday, August 27, 2007, as the Golf Outing and Extravaganza of the Senses return for another day of fun and fund raising at North Shore Golf Club.

Community First Fox Cities Marathon

Miles of training by hundreds of runners add up to a lot of support for the Strong Kids Campaign! Cathie Tierney, Community First Credit Union president and CEO, proudly gave the YMCA of the Fox Cities a \$12,000 check in support of the Strong Kids Campaign. "For the last seven years, we have earmarked some of the proceeds from the Fox Cities Marathon to support the Strong Kids Campaign. We are so pleased to be able to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Fox Cities' residents by supporting this worthy cause."

Thank you for helping us build strong kids, strong families, strong communities. Best wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with family, friends, and your favorite healthy activities at the YMCA.

Yours in service,



Sandra J. Drexler
Financial Development Director
YMCA of the Fox Cities