

Dear Friend of the YMCA,

Summer 2006

Thank You

Mother Teresa said, "The fruit of love is service. Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service." Thank you for your gift that allows us to serve the people of the Fox Cities. Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice by promoting youth, adult and family activities that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Your gifts make the "for all" happen every day, as we open our doors and hearts to those who could not otherwise afford it.

Strong Kids

The name of the campaign speaks directly to what we are accomplishing with the campaign. Walk into a YMCA facility on any given day, and the sound of children's laughter is ringing through the halls. The energetic, engaged, happy, busy children in the YMCA are the foundation of the work we do each day.

Annually, Strong Kids scholarships made it possible for more than 3,000 children to enjoy the YMCA's memberships, programs, child care and camps. About one of every seven children at Camp Nan A Bo Sho is there because of scholarship assistance.

Strong Kids Recipient Stories

Here are some examples of how you have helped others through your Strong Kids gifts:

Appleton YMCA/Camp Nan A Bo Sho

"I am a single parent with only one income. Libby enjoyed herself so much at Camp Nan A Bo Sho. It was a great experience for her. With Strong Kids' financial assistance, Libby was able to learn so many new things and made great new friends and memories."

Fox West YMCA

Ultra and Joe moved here from the East Coast, after they had both lost their jobs. They are living with her mother until they get their feet back on the ground, and have two daughters, ages six and two, who absolutely love the YMCA. Y programs and day camps have been a great way for the girls to meet new friends and spend their time in healthy pursuits while Mom and Dad look for jobs and assimilate to the area. Ultra says, "I kept hearing about the Y, and it has been a great place to meet people and get active in the community. We didn't know anyone when we moved here, and the Y has been a good resource. It is a wonderful place, and we are really glad we went there right away. It has been really nice to get this help when we need it."

Heart of the Valley YMCA

"We had been YMCA members for many years, but when health issues caused me to be unable to work, we were forced to drop our membership for financial reasons. The scholarship we have received has allowed us to keep our membership. It gives us a place with a family environment where we can go without additional financial obligation. Our children truly enjoy our family outings to the YMCA! Continued membership has also allowed me to use the Personal Fitness Program (PFP) and Lifestyle Center to work toward recovery from my long illness. Classes have given my daughter an outing and exercise to help her deal with my illness. THANK YOU!!!!"

Neenah-Menasha YMCA

Cheryl, a single mother of two, has a kidney disease that has forced her to stop working temporarily. Cheryl went through the PFP program, which helped her to deal with her medical issues and gave her a lot of emotional support and motivation. She proudly displays her PFP diploma on her living room wall and maintains contact with her coach several months after graduation. Being at the Y has helped her 12-year-old be respectful and responsible. Her eight-year-old daughter enjoys her time in Adventure Alley and has made lots of friends there. The YMCA is one of two places that have provided financial assistance to Cheryl and her family, and she wants Strong Kids donors to know how appreciated their support is. "The Y is a great place to enrich lives. The people there help and care for you when you really need it and give you a chance. We don't have a lot of money, and we could not have afforded the Y if it weren't for the scholarship. You are not labeled at the Y, and no one there judges you. It is great to get help and to be accepted, and we all love the time we spend at the Y. Thank you."

Fun at North Shore Golf Club Raises Funds

There is limited space available for the Sixth Annual Strong Kids Golf Outing and the Second Annual Extravaganza of the Senses, an afternoon spent sampling and learning about Tuscan food and wine. All proceeds from the day benefit the Strong Kids Campaign. Last year, we raised more than \$48,000 to support YMCA scholarships; this year's goal is \$52,000. For more information about the day's events or the many available sponsorships, please call Sandy Drexler at (920) 954-7637.

Thank you for helping us build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Yours in service,



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