

YOUR FAMILY Y



WESTPORT WESTON FAMILY Y

59 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880

203-226-8981 • www.westporty.org

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GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR NEW HOME

ROBIN TAUCK MAKES \$1 MILLION CHALLENGE



Robin Tauck with Trustee Emeritus Allen Raymond

The Westport Weston Family Y's campaign to fund and construct a new Y facility at its 32-acre Mahackeno Outdoor Center has received a \$1 million challenge gift from Y Trustee Robin Tauck.

Through this donation, Ms. Tauck will match up to \$1 million of charitable contributions or pledges of \$100,000 or more received by Dec. 31, 2011. Her

gift will be paid to the Family Y over the next five years.

"As a resident of Westport for 25 years and of Weston for the past 10 years, I believe the new Family Y will be among the most significant community projects in the history of our towns, serving over 8,000 people, from youth to seniors," says Ms. Tauck.

Ms. Tauck is a third-generation co-owner and former President of Tauck World Discovery, an 87-year luxury travel company based in Westport from 1971 to 2001 and now located in Norwalk.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in this 'season of giving' for a new generation to follow in the footsteps of passionate citizens and business leaders who have carefully protected and developed these special towns of Westport and Weston so that they will remain among the best places to live in Connecticut," says Ms. Tauck.

"Along with the recent \$1 million donation from Ann Louise Onton and several other significant contributions this fall, we hope that Robin's challenge will inspire other leaders in our community to give generously by year's end," says Rob Reeves, Family Y CEO.

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THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

The Westport Weston Family Y wishes to thank the volunteers who help us carry out our mission. As important as monetary donations are to the success of our organization, a donation of time is priceless. Our volunteers give their time, talent, and heart to help our Family Y serve the community.

In 2011, 174 volunteers contributed a total of 7,805 volunteer hours! The Water Rats volunteers were 139 strong and logged 4,533 hours on their own. In all, that's 514 days of giving 24/7 to our community.

Special thanks to Jim Marpe and Bonnie Strittmatter who lead our volunteer Boards of Directors and Trustees, and to the Water Rats Parents' Club.

We couldn't do it without all of you.

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\$1 MILLION CHALLENGE

Following a successful fundraising effort, Family Y officials are scheduled to break ground on the new Y facility in September 2012 and to open in late 2014.

"Robin Tauck has been one of our most effective advocates for what was once a dream and is now fast becoming a reality – a modern new Family Y," says Rob Reeves, Family Y CEO. "Not only has she shared what our new Family Y will mean to the children and families in our community, as a business leader she speaks eloquently about the economic impact our Y has and will continue to have to the entire area."

To take part in this challenge gift, please contact Rob Reeves at 203-226-8981, ext. 131 or rreeves@westportny.org.

For more information about the "Building What Matters" campaign to fund and construct a new Y, visit www.westportny.org.

GIVING THANKS TO THE BEDFORD SOCIETY



The Bedford Society honors those individuals who have expressed their commitment to the mission of the Family Y through planned giving. Named for Y founder Edward T. Bedford, the Society gives members of the community an opportunity to play an

invaluable role in the future of the Family Y by contributing to our Endowment Fund.

On November 16, some 30 members of the Society gathered with Y staffers, board members and guests at the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center for the annual Bedford Society Dinner, generously supported by **John and Cindy Vaccaro** (pictured).

"It is so moving to be among people who have built, and continue to build, this community through their support of the Family Y's Endowment Fund," said David Cohen, Family Y Vice President of Operations.

"Allen Raymond regaled us with stories of Kenneth J. Montgomery, a major benefactor from a quarter century ago," said Cohen. "At more quiet table conversations, people shared their earliest childhood memories. What a way to keep history alive!"

Our endowment is the key to our sustainability and ensures that the Family Y will remain open, providing valuable services as tough economic times affect the financial health of the Y.

For membership in the Bedford Society, you may:

- Contribute to the Westport Weston Family Y's Endowment Fund
- Make a bequest to the Family Y Endowment Fund in your will
- Name the Family Y as beneficiary of a life insurance policy

For more information, please contact Family Y CEO Rob Reeves.



FALL FUN AT MAHACKENO

The Family Y's sixth annual **Fall Family Fiesta**, held on Sunday, October 16 at the Y's Mahackeno Outdoor Center, was a tremendous success. More than 500 people turned out for a sunny autumn day perfect for enjoying pumpkin painting, birdhouse building, bean-bag toss games, huge inflatables, grilled food, and a spectacular performance by our gymnastics team.

"It's exciting to see the Mahackeno property alive with families and smiles," said Rob Reeves, Family Y CEO. "We look forward to the day we can use these 32 acres along the Saugatuck River 12 months a year." Thanks to our special guests — The Zac Foundation, Westport EMS and Visiting Nurse Services — and to all our members, friends, and neighbors.

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY...

... And thanks to people like you, we show that love by giving back all year long. When nature knocks us down, like during our recent storms, we open our doors, offer hot showers and extend a helping hand. When families are struggling, we say, "Don't worry," and we give them financial support for Y membership, camp, child care or programs.

This year the Family Y gave our community...

... **a 7th Grade Membership Initiative.** Every 7th grader in Westport and Weston is offered a free membership. We want children to learn to have healthy lifestyles, and 7th grade is a critical time to learn that lesson.

... **a Special Cares After School Program.** We now offer Special Cares in our After School program. We want all children to be able to participate in activities like swimming, sports and games, regardless of their special needs.

... **a Cancer Survivor Fitness Program.** We partner with Norwalk Hospital to provide free membership and specialized support to cancer survivors. We want to help survivors improve and have a better quality of life.

Our Family Y also provides direct financial assistance to local families in need. In 2010, we gave \$345,000 in financial assistance to 325 people. But we can't give without your help.



That is why we ask you to donate to the Strong Kids Campaign, our annual appeal.

Make a safe and secure online donation today by visiting westporty.org and clicking on GIVING. Thank you for helping us help others.

The Westport Weston Family Y is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and it is not funded by any government agency. Thanks to the generosity of our members, friends, charitable foundations and local business we are able to provide life-changing services to our community.

MILITARY VETERANS HONORED

On Sunday, November 13, the Family Y was proud to host the second annual luncheon for military veterans from Westport, Weston and other local communities.

The festivities were held in the Family Y's Bedford Room and were well attended by an array of veterans, from those who served in World War II to Vietnam.



Stanley Adelman, a retired major in the Army Air Corps, then Air Force who served 1943-1984, and his wife **Jill**, who was a radio operator in England's Woman's Royal Naval Service, at the Westport Weston Family Y veterans' luncheon.

GATHERING FOR WHAT MATTERS

In early November, board member Brian Strong and his wife, Nancy, brought together directors, supporters, and members of the Men's Health Center to hear about the latest developments in the Building What Matters capital campaign. The group was inspired to become involved in the campaign.



Trustee Paul Sheldon, Host and Director Brian Strong, and supporter Sean Jackman.

MAKING WATER SAFE FOR ALL

There's more to water safety than teaching a child how to swim. Now, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the **Stew Leonard III Children's Charities**, our Family Y will be able to offer comprehensive water safety instruction at Splash Week and our Hafaday Summer Swim Lesson Program. Over the past two decades, the foundation has been nationally recognized for its drowning prevention efforts and increasing education and awareness about children's water safety.

"We are very proud to team up with the Family Y to achieve shared goals of enriching kids' lives while keeping them safe and offering skills that will stay with them their whole lives," said Kim and Stew Leonard.



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What We're Building... ...Why It Matters

Thank you for your support of our campaign to build a new home for our Family Y.

This newsletter includes the latest news about what we've achieved to date – and how you can help us help others.

VISIT OUR GIVING TREE

Jacquie Tumminia, Senior Director of Aquatics and Competitive Swimming, has once again decorated the Family Y's **Giving Tree** in the Weeks Pool Lobby with holiday gift requests from Y members in need. In this season of giving, we invite Y families to select a gift-request ornament from our tree and make someone's holiday wish come true. The Aquatics Department originated this idea several years ago and it has become an honored tradition.

Thank you, Jacquie, and all our members and staff for continuing to make the holidays more blessed for those less fortunate.



SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL CARES

Newman's Own Foundation has awarded a two-year \$50,000 grant to the Family Y's Special Cares program at Camp Mahackeno. The grant made it possible for children with special needs to take part in the 2011 summer season and underwrites the Special Cares program again in 2012.

"It's a wonderful experience for these children, and having them involved in camp activities is meaningful for all our campers," says David Cohen, Vice President of Operations. "The support from Newman's Own Foundation benefits more than these special kids, it strengthens our entire community."