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Westport Weston Family Y Details Plans for Construction of New Y Facility at Mahackeno

Family Y Building Project Moves Forward with Hiring of Turner Construction

Westport, CT, February 16, 2012 – At a joint meeting held on Monday, Feb. 13, the Westport Weston Family Y's volunteer Board of Directors and Board of Trustees voted to move forward with construction plans for the new Y facility at the Family Y's Mahackeno Outdoor Center.

The Family Y's new home will be built in phases, keeping pace with fundraising for the facility and ensuring the financial sustainability of the Family Y as a community center focused on developing youth, promoting healthy living for all and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

Construction of the new Family Y is scheduled to begin in October 2012, starting with a 55,000 sq. ft. main building that will include a competitive lap pool and family/teaching pool; Wellness Center; Gymnasium; three fitness studios; Child Watch area; five locker rooms; and other amenities of a modern, fully equipped and sustainable YMCA facility. "As more dollars are given, we'll be able to expand our new Family Y and add the rest of the features envisioned in the original design for our Mahackeno campus," said Bonnie Strittmatter, President of the Board of Directors.

"The Family Y will also explore opportunities to provide programs at other locations around the community to ensure that valuable and needed services are not interrupted, even if construction of dedicated facilities is delayed," said Strittmatter.

Family Y members and the public will have an opportunity to review plans and designs for the phased-in facility at an informational meeting on Feb. 22, 7 pm at the Family Y. Family Y officials and its construction partners have notified the appropriate municipal and state agencies of its revised construction plans and will strive to secure all necessary approvals, if needed.

"While we regret that we can't construct the whole facility at the same time, we are convinced that it is the most fiscally responsible thing to do," said Jim Marpe, Chairman of the Family Y's

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Board of Trustees. "As we explored our options going forward, including a thorough review of several recently built Y facilities in the Northeast, we realized that a 'phased' construction process is common. Not only does it make sense economically, it also gives us greater flexibility going forward to meet the evolving needs of the community we've served for nearly a century."

Family Y Building Project Moves Forward

The Westport Weston Family Y has engaged Turner Construction Co. as its primary site-development and construction partner for the new Y facility at its 32-acre Mahackeno Outdoor Center. Along with Turner, the Family Y's development partners include Robert A.M. Stern Architects, the building's designer; Zubatkin Owner Representation; and Land-Tech Consultants, a local environmental and engineering consulting firm.

"We now have a complete team of highly professional, accomplished partners to help us bring this wonderful new building out of the ground," says Steve Halstead, a member of the Family Y Construction Committee.

"Westporters know Turner as the company that has given us a long list of successful community projects, including the reconstruction of Staples High School, renovation of the Westport Country Playhouse, the brand-new Bedford Middle School and the Center for Senior Activities," says Halstead. "They understand the Westport and Weston communities and what is required to complete local construction projects on budget and on time."

As it enters the construction phase of its "Building What Matters" campaign, the Family Y has filed an application with the Town of Westport to connect the planned new Y facility to the Town's municipal sanitary sewer system. The Family Y had previously gained local and state approval to install and operate a septic system that would safely treat wastewater from the new Y facility on site.

"Given the previously stated support of the Conservation Commission and that of First Selectman Gordon F. Joseloff, we are confident that our application to connect to the Town's sewer system will be received favorably and approved by the appropriate local bodies without undue delay," says Rob Reeves, Family Y CEO.

Family Y officials and its development partners cite the following benefits of utilizing the Town's municipal sewer system:

- 1) **Preserve 1.5 acres of Mahackeno's woodlands.** Connecting the new Y facility to the Town's municipal sewer system would save more than 100 trees on the camp property from being cut down in order to install the approved in-ground septic system.
- 2) **Further protect the Saugatuck River.** By connecting the new Y facility to the municipal sewer system, wastewater produced at the Y facility will be processed at the Town of Westport's recently upgraded, state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant, as it is now from the Y's current facility.
- 3) **Support from previous Westport Conservation Commission.** After the Conservation Commission approved the Family Y's plan for a FAST septic system, a member of the commission at the time stated publicly that although the septic system meets all

requirements, the entire commission would prefer that the Family Y's proposed facility connect to the Town sewer.

- 4) **Reduced construction and ongoing operational costs.** Installing a sewer line that would access the Town's existing sewer system would result in substantial savings, thereby allowing more resources to be allocated to enhanced Y programs that will benefit local youth, families and the community as a whole. In addition, connecting to the Town's sewer system would relieve the Town of the long-term costs and manpower of monitoring the septic system as required under the current approvals.
- 5) **Addressing public/neighborly concerns.** During the approval process for the septic system, some local residents expressed concerns about the size and location of the septic system. Connecting the new Y facility to the municipal sewer system would dispel these concerns.

To join the Family Y's "Building What Matters" campaign to fund and construct a sustainable new Y facility, please contact Rob Reeves at 203-226-8981, ext. 131 or rreeves@westporty.org.

"We have a vision for our Family Y's future; in fact a blueprint of it," says Reeves. "What we now need is the commitment and the generosity of our community's leaders to help us achieve our shared vision of creating a sustainable new home that will help us continue to make Westport and Weston great places to live."

About the Westport Weston Family Y

The Westport Weston Family Y is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that enriches the community by developing and nurturing the potential of every child, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. The Family Y emphasizes the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility in its programs and services. An affiliate of the YMCA of the USA, the Westport Weston Family Y is governed by two boards comprised of community volunteers. As a private non-profit serving a public purpose, the Family Y endeavors to provide financial assistance to those who qualify. For more information, visit westporty.org or contact Rob Reeves, CEO, at 203-226-8981, ext. 131 or rreeves@westporty.org.

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