

BestBuy

joins Partners Campaign

At its grand opening on November 10th, Best Buy - Rosenberg presented the TW Davis Family YMCA a \$10,000 check for its 2007 Partners Campaign.



PICTURED: Best Buy manager Leslie Castillo and business supervisor Chris Tadlock, TW Davis Family YMCA Executive Director Brian Haines, Luis Mendoza, YMCA Partners Chair Andrea O'Neill, Kathy Szypulski, Adrienne Dishon

KIDS: 1ST ROW: TroDon Ratliff, David Green, Caroline Green, Amanda Kahlenberg, Lauren Kahlenberg **2ND ROW:** Matthew Kilburn, Hannah Crosley, Kristen Adams, Elisabeth Kahlenberg, Sheri Baumbach



YMCA of the Greater Houston Area
1600 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77002



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Our Mission: To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. We strive to turn no one away due to inability to pay.



events

Jingle All the Way



to the Downtown YMCA this Holiday

The Jingle Bell Run is a fund-raiser for the Downtown YMCA and proceeds help provide financial assistance for kids and teens to attend summer day camp, after school care at inner city schools, job training programs, swimming lessons and other much-needed programs.

The festivities include a costume contest, 3-mile family walk, kids' run, an adult 5-mile run, and a 5-mile event for wheelchair racers. This year's event starts on Sunday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the Downtown YMCA at 1600 Louisiana Street.

Register on line for this year's Jingle Bell Run at www.jinglebellrun.org



Happenings

FALL 2006 • A newsletter for friends of the YMCA of Greater Houston

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a tremendous success for the YMCA of Greater Houston – our doors opened nearly FIVE MILLION times.

That's more than the total number of people who attended Texans, Astros and Rockets games last year – combined. And each time someone walked in our doors, they were changed for the better.

How do we change lives? At the YMCA, we will encourage you to succeed when we believe you can, but we will also pull you up when you need it most.

As I look back on my year as board chair, there are some amazing numbers I want to share with you. This year the YMCA of Greater Houston generated \$94 million in revenue. We also balanced our budget and grew our membership and program services by nearly ten percent. But a look beyond the numbers tells the true story of the YMCA's impact.

More than 40,000 children and families participated in YMCA apartment outreach and Success By Six programs last year. As a result, thousands of children were mentored and inspired, while families were strengthened and supported.

Nearly 40% of all our programs took place outside of YMCA buildings in the community last year. That shows that walls cannot contain the power of the YMCA of Greater Houston.

YMCA International Services provided legal help to more than 15,000 clients. That means that we help mobilize communities and provide needed services.

Last year, we enriched the lives of more than 66,200 youth at 64 day camps. That means we provided tens of thousands of children with a safe and comfortable place where they can engage in challenging activities, learn how to get along with other children and build positive relationships with nurturing adults.

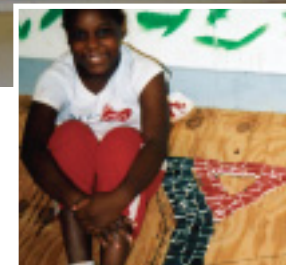
Between 2005 and 2006, more than 10,600 children were enrolled in 279 child care sites, in partnership with 31 school districts. That translates into 10,000 children who are less likely to take drugs or exhibit violent behavior and are more likely to get good grades and get along with their peers.

More than 78,700 children learned teamwork in YMCA youth sports with over 15,000 volunteer coaches last year. That means more than 78,000 children learned that character values like honesty, teamwork and fair play are more important than the final score.

The YMCA is an undeniably essential part of Greater Houston. For 121 years, we have been meeting the needs of our diverse and changing communities. Thank you for your help and generous support. We could not do it without you.

Sincerely,

ERIC MULLINS
Board Chair



Young Artists

Children need creative activities to help spark their imagination. Nearly 40 day campers at the Wendel D. Ley Family YMCA got the opportunity to stretch the limits of their ingenuity this summer as part of an art project funded by the YMCA of Greater Houston's Partners Campaign. During the seven-week art program, day campers, guided by local artist Rose Toro, learned to create mosaics, pencil and 3-D drawings, and developed an appreciation for art that just might last a lifetime.

“ Since two years ago I had a lot of fun at the YMCA. Now this year we have art class. Once you draw when you're little, once you're big you get better at drawing. That's why I like the YMCA. ”

— ZARYAN SINEN, 8

THE INSIDE SCOOP

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ALBERT MCQUEEN
Alief Family YMCA member

Building Future **LEADERS**

— by *Cassandra Heard* —

Don't be surprised when you hear Albert McQueen on the airwaves one day. But this 17 year-old doesn't only want to be an entertainer; he also wants to make a difference.

This summer Albert and 50 other Hastings High School students worked as counselors in the Houston's Kids project through the Alief Family YMCA.

The Houston's Kids program addresses the out of school needs of children displaced during Hurricane Katrina. This project helps elementary through high school age students engage in various activities that include internships, part-time employment, and helping others.

"Before to moving to Houston from Saint Louis, I was consistently in trouble, I had a bad attitude, and no aspirations for the future," says Albert. Thanks to Houston's Kids, he gained a sense of purpose.

Albert shared his poetic and singing talent with the kids through rap. He taught them songs and realized that through his music he could positively influence others.

"After working as a junior counselor at Best Elementary, Albert became mature, responsible, and grew into a great role model for younger children," says Elisabeth Cooper, Alief Family YMCA program director.

So, when you hear the disc jockeys announce Albert McQueen on the radio, remember where this future leader got his inspiration – the Alief Family YMCA.

"This experience has changed me. I want to work for the YMCA again next year."



HOUSTON'S KIDS PROJECT • ALIEF FAMILY YMCA

The Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA

SERVING THE ALVIN COMMUNITY IN A **NEW WAY**

Head to the Alvin area and you just may sense the excitement that is brewing. With a new YMCA facility under construction, hard hat tours and drive by glances are common.

Named in memory of Thelma Ley Anderson, the YMCA in Alvin will open the doors of its new center on January 20th. The Alvin Area Family YMCA changes lives everyday through quality programs that touch the lives of more than 3,000 kids and families; however, the new center will allow the YMCA to reach more than 10,000 people.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

One teen's example speaks volumes about the YMCA's impact. "My time at Blue Ridge changed my life," shared fifteen year old Megan. A peer leader of the teen program at the Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA Megan attended the Blue Ridge teen values and leadership conference, held in North Carolina. Now Megan is choosing her life goals more carefully. Her grades have improved so much that she will graduate a year early. The new facility will allow more children and teens like Megan to experience positive life changes.

The YMCA is extremely grateful to everyone who has helped with the center's capital development efforts. The campaign started off strong thanks to the generous estate gift of Thelma Ley Anderson. As the YMCA's gift from the estate grew to \$2.7 million, the community stepped in to continue the momentum. Currently more than \$4 million in gifts and land have been pledged.

The new facility will include a fully equipped Welles center, two aerobics' studios, gymnasium, full locker rooms, outdoor heated swimming pool, child-watch area and meeting. In addition, one of the YMCA's community partners, Memorial Hermann Sports Rehabilitation and Clinic, will be housed in the facility.

The Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA will be a cornerstone of the Alvin area providing much-needed services to families and children regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay. Although the new facility will open up new possibilities, what won't change is how YMCA programs instill character values like self-esteem and develop leadership in youth. It takes caring adult role models, strong families, nurturing seniors and positive Y staff to create programs that make happen.

We hope to see you at the new Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA!



THE CYPRESS CREEK FAMILY YMCA:

Building a Foundation of Hope for Families



STRONG FAMILIES ARE BUILT WITH LOVE AND TRUST. Communities support the development of strong families by providing caring environments where families can flourish and grow. Building a firm foundation of hope for the future, the Cypress Creek Family YMCA joined with Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County to bring YMCA programs into the Cherie Cove

community – a place families can be proud to call home.

On October 28th, 2006, the Cypress Creek Family YMCA, along with Habitat for Humanity, raised the first walls of the Cherie Cove Community Center. Scheduled to open in early 2007, the facility, staffed by the Cypress Creek YMCA will be a fun, safe place for kids to learn positive values, get homework help, stay active and develop new life skills – all under the watchful eyes of nurturing adults.

“We build homes, but the YMCA builds communities,” said Lee Schnell, Habitat for Humanity NWHC executive director. “This is the perfect partnership.”

The Cherie Cove community, built by Habitat for Humanity NWHC, is made up of 54 families, many of them single parents, living in 27 duplexes. At the new community center, residents, particularly young people, will have the chance to engage in enriching YMCA programs and activities, like AfterSchool, youth sports, day camp and more.

“This is a unique opportunity for two nonprofit organizations to get together and help build a community,” said Rexanne Isham Paugh, Cypress Creek YMCA executive director. “Most of the Cherie Cove residents have never owned homes before; this is a chance for the YMCA to help them build better lives.”

OUTREACH PROGRAM

events

Helping Kids Make the Grade



Thousands of children in 31 Houston area school districts headed back to class with the supplies they needed thanks to YMCA Operation Backpack. More than 5,900 backpacks and 88,400 school supplies were collected impacting a total of 14,500 families.

The generous giving of YMCA and community members was bolstered by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's participation in this year's drive. More than 40 parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston joined YMCA Operation Backpack. In addition, each Houston-area YMCA partnered with a local church that served as school supply collection sites. There were more than 100 collection sites in all.

YMCA Operation Backpack was supported by our broadcast partners, KSBJ radio and ABC 13.



CENTER OF ATTENTION



DOWNTOWN YMCA

1600 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: 713.659.8501

Executive Director: Mandy Stelzer

Members inspired8,850
each year

Children enriched each1,100
summer in day camp

Kids in nurtured in1,179
AfterSchool programs

Teens mentored697
in leadership programs

Kids empowered through527
swim lessons



Texas Children's Hospital

Texas Children's Hospital & the YMCA Support Healthy Families

As children's health becomes a more significant problem in Houston, Texas Children's Hospital and the YMCA of Greater Houston recognized that they have a common goal to help improve the health and well-being of kids. Texas Children's and the YMCA started early in 2006 sharing their vision and ideas on collaborating to strengthen their message to the Houston community about healthy, active lifestyles for children and families. The fit is natural as Texas Children's is a major resource for children's health information and the YMCA is a repository of information on active living and lifestyles, including exercise and sports.

Texas Children's Pediatric Associates (TAPA), the hospital's network of pediatric practices, which is frequently a parent's first point of contact with Texas Children's, seems like the most obvious Texas Children's arm to partner directly with the YMCA. The pediatric practices and the YMCA facilities share a similar network pattern in the community, providing a way to work easily together.

Since April of 2006, this partnership has sponsored community advertising, special events and a joint web campaign.

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Dick and David Weekley were presented with the Galloway Award for their outstanding corporate citizenship.

Recipes for Life

2006 YMCA Annual Celebration

Each fall, we gather for an Annual Celebration, where we reflect on the successes we've shared, and recognize the volunteers who give so generously to the YMCA. On November 2nd, the YMCA of Greater Houston hosted its 2006 Annual Celebration, titled "Recipes for Life."

We view our YMCA as the community's kitchen – a place with the ingredients that help youth and teens develop into strong adults, where families find support and kids find caring adults who listen to their hopes and dreams. We help people create recipes to live by... recipes for life.

This year's event, held in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston, recognized 41 Volunteers of the Year, individuals representing each YMCA center, camp and special program. Among those also honored was former YMCA of Greater Houston CEO Bill Phillips, chosen to receive the David D. Allen Award, the YMCA's highest volunteer honor. In addition, the Weekley Development Corporation and David Weekley Homes were presented with the YMCA's James Galloway Award for their outstanding corporate citizenship.

As part of the night's finale, YMCA Association Board Chair Eric Mullins ended his outstanding tenure by passing the gavel to Paul Van Wagenen, incoming Board Chair.



Former YMCA President and CEO Bill Phillips was honored for his leadership and service



Eric Mullins during his "passing the gavel" speech



2006-2007 YMCA Board Chair Paul Van Wagenen and YMCA President and CEO Clark Baker



YMCA Board Chair Eric Mullins, YMCA President and CEO, Clark Baker, YMCA President and CEO, and Texas Medical Center YMCA Child Care Center members presents award to volunteer

Stories are the memories we have and the lessons we learn ...

Stories allow us to reminisce about who we are, where we have been and where we want to go. At the YMCA, thousands of stories are created each day. As we build healthy spirit, mind and body for all, stories are woven together with the threads of empowered families, children who value equality and integrity and communities where each person is appreciated for their unique gifts and abilities.

We want to recognize and lift up some of our best storytellers, those energetic folks who are leading the 2007 Partners campaign at each of their respective centers:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Aldine-Greenspoint
John Brejot
Rodney Anderson | Cypress Creek
Ms. Chris Collins | Post Oak
Scott Anderson |
| Alief
Anness Bertrand | Downtown
Rita Irani | San Jacinto
Michael Morris
Jay Bain |
| Thelma Ley Anderson
Wendy Del Bello | Fort Bend
Raymond Franks
Ricky Rosa | South Central
Nzinga Rideaux |
| MD Anderson
Rebecca Reyna | Huntsville
Kelly Prew
Marjean Creager | South Montgomery County
Tony Allison |
| Association
Tommy Parker
Robert McFadden | Katy
Dennis Kirwin | Texas Medical Center
Terry Fitzgerald |
| Bay Area YMCAs*
Roy Green | Lake Houston
Sandy Peters | TW Davis
Andrea O'Neill |
| Baytown
Richard Guynes | Langham Creek
Justin Lindstrom | WD Ley
Ed Perkins |
| Camping Services
Joel Harmon | Liberty County
Judith Glover | Weekley
Ronnie Hallenberger |
| Clay Road
Linda Beeman
Elaine Rollins | Magnolia/Tomball
Tom Cline | West Orem
Livy Wilson
Parnell Speed |
| Conroe
Fred Richmond | North Harris County
Ernestine Mitchell | Westland
Charley Reado |
| Vic Coppinger
Wesley Sherer | Northeast
Carroll Robinson
Irene Johnson | |
| Cossaboom
Dr. Russell Malik
Angelo Murillo | Northwest
Mike Holland
Mischanna Atkinson | |

* (North Galveston/EA Smith)

2007 PARTNERS CAMPAIGN