

Dear Friends,



When I started at the YMCA of Greater Houston as a volunteer, I knew the Y was a family-oriented organization with a focus on children. I soon realized that I didn't know **half** of what the YMCA does or the impact it has on people's lives.

As I became more involved, I realized that the YMCA is engaged even more deeply in the community than I imagined. From summer day and resident camps, to teen centers, to youth sports, to refugee resettlement – my eyes were soon opened to what I believe is an incredible organization. Before I knew it, I was hooked on the YMCA.

Now, as board chair, it is with pride that I bring you a message of hope for our future. The YMCA of Greater Houston is mid-way through the development of a strategic plan that will take us through the year 2020. This plan provides volunteers and staff with a roadmap by which to assess and meet the new and emerging needs of children and families in the greater Houston area, to remain relevant to a dynamic community with dramatically changing demographics and to ensure that our programs are available to all.

I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR YMCA'S OUTREACH WORK IN 13 OF HOUSTON'S APARTMENT COMPLEXES.

But there is more good news to report. I am especially proud of our YMCA's outreach work in 13 of Houston's apartment complexes. Taking our youth development work to low-income neighborhoods, we provide homework assistance, tutoring, afterschool activities, mentoring and youth sports to thousands of children every day. Without caring adults, strong families and activities that value youth, our children are all susceptible to high-risk behaviors, regardless of their backgrounds. The impact we are having on these kids and their families is real and nothing short of amazing.

We have completed our annual Partners Campaign, which, thanks to Campaign Chair Gerri Ayers and Co-Chair Tommy Parker, received \$4,765,467 in pledges – well over their original \$4.5 million goal. This support gives the YMCA the resources it needs to expand youth programs, provide financial assistance to low-income families and give people a sense of hope and empowerment.

As we enter our 120th year of service, the YMCA of Greater Houston is well-positioned to increase our community impact and capacity to serve our diverse and changing neighborhoods. We have an extraordinary organization with an incredible group of full and part-time employees which I am honored and proud to be a part of.



Thank you for helping the YMCA grow and prosper,

ERIC MULLINS
Chair, YMCA of Greater Houston Board of Directors



The Year of Our Storm

— by C. Wickware —

The year of 2005 for many people was the year of the Hurricane. For my family, it was the year of "The Storm." We laid my grandmother to rest and I was then laid off from my job due to outsourcing. The prognosis of my father's kidney disease was looking worse, and he needed a kidney transplant immediately.

When spring approached, my parents received a phone call to let them know that they needed to pick up their great grand-children; their parents would not be able to take care of them for a while. Unfortunately, due to my father's health condition, my parents wouldn't be able to support the kids either, although they were compelled to do so.

It was overwhelming, but we adjusted and six more children were now with us. However, we faced a new dilemma. The summer was approaching and school would soon end. My sister is a single mother of one, working and attending college. My

Story continued on page 2 ...

THE INSIDE SCOOP

- Volunteer Spotlightpage 3
- YMCA Apartment Outreachpage 4
- Giving Backpage 6



Operation Backpack page 5



MINORITY ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

James Onyirimba, Ashley Robertson, James Martinez,
and Angelica Ramirez

Building Future

LEADERS



FOR MANY YOUNGSTERS, THE ACHIEVERS program makes dreams a reality. This theme resonated at this year's Minority Achievers Award Gala as it recognized six outstanding students of the YMCA Achievers Program and 38 African-American community leaders. Recipients were honored for their dedicated service and success.

"The Minority Achievers program has inspired me to stay active and help other people," said M.B. Smiley High School senior Jerrell Scott, one of the scholarship recipients.

"The students' eagerness to learn has motivated me to help younger students gain confidence in their school work, so that they can benefit from programs like this one," Jerrell said.

Since 1986, close to 100 students have received scholarships through the Achievers program. The program strives to help youth develop a positive sense of self and to set high educational and career goals by offering opportunities that enhance their cultural awareness. Teens visit businesses and colleges, receive mentoring, attend self-esteem workshops and SAT/ACT prep-courses.

Nearly 1,200 community leaders have received the Minority Achievers Award as of 1969. The prestigious award honors their hard work and determination in the advancement of minorities, as they continue to serve as exemplary role models and devoted volunteers.

In addition, Dr. Mary Holt-Ashley and Mr. Harold Malveaux were also recognized with the YMCA Quentin R. Mease Super Achievers Award, the highest recognition of excellence and achievement.

"This program has guided me in the direction that I need to go," Jerrell said. "The Achievers scholarship will help me pursue a college education. I am very thankful for this experience."



THE YEAR OF OUR STORM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ...

husband and I both have full-time jobs and are working on degrees, while also raising four children of our own. "How can we possibly incorporate more children into this mix," I asked myself.

Every necessity was costing more in price, from bread to milk, to electricity to cool our home, to gas needed to get to work. My husband and I agreed to allocate any extra income to help my sister pay for the children's summer care, clothing and other expenses. However, the expenditures were still overwhelming.

The school year would end in six weeks. My sister stopped by the North Galveston County YMCA office to ask for some help. She completed a scholarship application and the YMCA provided scholarships to all five children for ten weeks of the summer. We thank God for allowing the YMCA to step in just when we needed help the most.

The children were able to experience wonderful outings to Six Flags Astroworld, Splashtown, the NASA Space Center, and an Astros baseball game, opportunities they had never experienced before. The Comets game was the most meaningful to my 11-year-old niece who stands 5 feet 7 inches. Her self-esteem was greatly impacted. She now aspires to be a WNBA basketball player. This year, the only reason my niece, an honor student, looked forward to the end of the school year was so that she could enroll in YMCA Teen Camp again.

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Ever since my 9-year-old nephew visited the NASA Space Center with the Y, he has been fascinated with astronauts and space.

My 10-year-old niece would love to swim competitively some day, maybe even in the Olympics. Swimming at the YMCA, two to three times a week allowed her to become a better swimmer.

When summer ended, the YMCA helped us once again by sending the children back to school with much needed school supplies and scholarships for after-school care.

The year of 2005 turned out to be a new start for the children. Our family faced challenges, but thanks to the North Galveston YMCA, my nieces and nephews had a nurturing, healthy and safe place to go to despite our circumstances. Thank you for granting them the opportunities that otherwise would have not been available to them. The YMCA brightened our days during a difficult time and we are forever grateful.

2

event



YMCA Chief Development Officer Gail Glasser, President & CEO Clark Baker, and Trazanna Moreno, Communications Director



RONNIE HALLENBERGER

A Coach, Tutor & Volunteer

"As a volunteer, I'm learning that the YMCA needs people to step up and support them, because it has many members to serve. If people volunteer and do what they can, it will have a big impact on the people the YMCA serves," said Ronnie Hallenberger, member of the Weekley Family YMCA Board of Directors.

Ronnie began volunteering at the Austin Southwest YMCA in 2002 as a youth soccer coach. Upon moving to Houston, he continued to coach soccer at the Weekley Family YMCA and has served on its board of directors for two years.

Ronnie is a product of YMCA programs. While growing up, Ronnie participated in youth sports and his entire family were members of their local YMCA.

"As I got involved with the YMCA, I wanted to do more," he said.

Ronnie tutors one day a week at the YMCA Oaks on Bissonnet Apartment Outreach Program. The outreach program means a lot to me. It is so vital in helping these children succeed," Ronnie said. "They are comfortable in their environment. If we pulled them out of it, they would not be themselves."

Last December, with the help of his wife, the Weekley Family YMCA staff and its members, Ronnie surprised 182 kids at the YMCA Oaks on Bissonnet Apartment Outreach Program with presents. The members of the Weekley YMCA selected and bought the gifts from the wish lists compiled by the children at the apartment complex.

The Wednesday before Christmas, the kids rushed out of their apartments and found bikes, dolls, and games lined up outside their homes. "On that day, I wanted them to feel equal and to have new stuff just like everyone else."

Next year, they hope to bring more smiles to children by planning to reach 500 kids including those of the Royal Apartment Outreach Program.

Volunteering has become a major part of Ronnie's life. "It's so important for people to give back to the communities that they live in. You see the work that the YMCA does. They don't just give a hand-out, but provide people with the tools that they need to succeed," Ronnie said. "I get such a charge for the YMCA and their programs-to see those kids improve and be happy."



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national awards

At this year's 25th Annual NAYDO (North American YMCA Development

Organization) Conference in Indianapolis, the YMCA of Greater Houston won three national awards! In the communications contests, we received first place for our annual report and audio-visual piece on the temporary YMCA for Katrina victims, and again for our endowment development brochure. **No other YMCA has won three times in the same year.**

• NAYDO holds a conference every year for training, educational seminars, and networking opportunities for YMCA executives from the United States, Canada and Mexico and recognizes YMCAs for outstanding work produced during the year. • The YMCA Association financial development staff and the Northwest YMCA team also received the highest ratings of any of the seminars as they led an "extreme makeover" session on how to make campaigns stronger.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!

24

th Annual Prayer Breakfast

The 24th Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on April 12th for YMCA staff, volunteers and friends to join together and celebrate Holy Week. E.A.

Smith YMCA member, **Evelyn Husband**, wife of the late Shuttle Columbia Commander Rick Husband, was the keynote speaker. She shared how her faith has sustained her and explained how the Y has served as a place for healing for her family in many ways. Plans for a chapel at the E.A. Smith are underway, with the support of the community, and will honor YMCA members and astronauts **Rick Husband, Michael Anderson and Ilan Ramon**, three of the men who died on board the Shuttle Columbia.



YMCA apartment outreach centers

CONTINUE TO GROW

THE WEEKLEY FAMILY YMCA PROUDLY OPENED ITS SECOND COMMUNITY OUTREACH center on the southwest side of Houston at the Oaks on Bissonett apartment complex on January 31, 2006. Housed in two remodeled units provided by the apartment complex at no charge, the outreach center immediately started serving an average of 35 children with both after-school tutoring and basic group activities.

Weekly Family YMCA Outreach Director Carlos Marquina couldn't be more pleased with the early progress of the center, "While we knew there was a great need in this community for an outreach center, we would have never anticipated the early impact we have already begun to make."

The community outreach program began in 1996 when the International Services YMCA began providing after-school programs for children in apartment complexes on South Stella Link Drive. Financial assistance allowed families and children to participate in YMCA programs. In 1999, collaboration between International Services and the Royale Apartments provided on-site programs and services for the residents, as well as surrounding apartments, at little or no cost. The Royale Apartment Community Outreach Center became the Weekley Family YMCA's first community center.

Paul McDonald, owner of the Vista del Sol apartments in Pasadena, has seen first hand the positive impact that can be made on the lives of residents through the San Jacinto YMCA's Outreach Center, located at Vista del Sol. In December 2004, McDonald, who also owns the Oaks on Bissonett apartments, approached the Weekley Family YMCA about opening another community center at this location.

The Oaks on Bissonett program is modeled on Weekley's long-standing successful program at the Royale Apartments. Prior to the involvement of the YMCA, the Royale Apartments were subjected to high gang activity and considered an unsafe area by the Houston Police Department. Area children were under constant pressures from gang members and many were involved in drugs and other dangerous behaviors. Thanks to the YMCA, the majority of these negative elements are gone and children are now engaged in positive, value-based programs.

The children and families at the Oaks on Bissonett apartments face similar circumstances as those of the Royale apartments. Comprised mainly of low-income, minority residents with an average annual household income of less than \$24,000 per year, the outreach center allows residents to engage in programs and services that wouldn't normally be accessible to them. The goal is to strengthen this effort over time and to make the Oaks on Bissonett a safer, stronger community.

During the course of the first year, the new resident outreach director, Aida Garcia, will add a full slate of programs modeled after the Weekley Family YMCA's Royale Outreach Center and based on the needs of the community. Along with after-school tutoring, Garcia is already in the early stages of developing the Teen Leaders program. Weekly teen nights have already begun and are drawing an average of 20 teens per week. Additional programs that will be offered over the course of the next year include sports leagues, fitness classes, leadership development programs, after-school mentoring, day and YMCA resident camps, community events, English as a second language, and Bible study classes.

★ *By Crystal Beavers*

4

events

2nd annual YMCA Operation Backpack



The week of April 24th through the 28th, **40 ExxonMobil volunteers** generously donated their time to help renovate the new M.D. Anderson YMCA Early Childhood Development Program site at Second Christian Church. Volunteers kindly dedicated several hours to paint a beautiful new place where children of the north Houston area can learn and grow healthy. **Thank you ExxonMobil for serving the needs of our community.**

Early Childhood Development Site Gets New Look Thanks to Volunteers

July 10th through August 12th, the second-annual YMCA Operation Backpack will collect brand new backpacks filled with school supplies and distribute them to children in 31 Houston area school districts. • "YMCA Operation Backpack" joins the forces of 38 YMCAs, local churches and other partners, all mobilized in an effort to collect thousands of school supplies for children who might otherwise go back to school unprepared. Last year, YMCA Operation Backpack collected more than 80,000 backpacks and supplies impacting a total of 11,000 families. • All YMCA facilities throughout the city will serve as collection sites along with 40 parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston with 100 collection sites in all. We look forward to another successful event. • YMCA Operation Backpack is supported by KSBJ radio and ABC 13.





CONTINUAN CRECIENDO

los centros de YMCA en los apartamentos

EL WEEKLEY FAMILY YMCA ORGULLOSAMENTE ABRIÓ LAS PUERTAS DE SU SEGUNDO centro comunitario en los apartamentos Oaks on Bissonett, en el suroeste de Houston, el 31 de enero del 2006. Dentro de dos apartamentos totalmente renovados y proporcionados por el complejo a ningún costo, el centro inmediatamente empezó a servir un promedio de 35 niños con asesoría y actividades disponibles después del horario escolar.

El director de proyectos comunitarios del Weekly Family YMCA Carlos Marquina no pudiera estar más contento con el éxito del centro. "Sabíamos que había una gran necesidad en esta comunidad por un centro, pero nunca nos habíamos imaginado el impacto que haríamos en tan poco tiempo."

Este programa que se realiza en de los apartamentos, comenzó en 1996 cuando la YMCA de Servicios Internacionales comenzó a ofrecer programas por la tarde, después de las clases para los niños viviendo en los apartamentos en la Stella Link. A través de la ayuda financiera, varias familias pudieron aprovechar los programas de la YMCA. En 1999, una colaboración entre la YMCA de Servicios Internacionales y los apartamentos Royale, proveyó programas para los inquilinos en las mismas instalaciones de los apartamentos, al igual que para personas de otros apartamentos en el área, a bajo o ningún costo. El centro comunitario de aprendizaje en los apartamentos Royale se convirtió en el primer centro de este tipo para la Weekley Family YMCA.

En diciembre del 2004, el propietario de los apartamentos Oaks on Bissonett, Paul McDonald, quien también es dueño de los apartamentos Vista del Sol en Pasadena, le presentó a la Weekley Family YMCA la idea de abrir un centro comunitario en los apartamentos Oaks. McDonald ha visto el impacto positivo que ha tenido el centro del San Jacinto YMCA-Vista del Sol en las vidas de muchos de sus inquilinos.

El programa que se ha llevado a cabo en los apartamentos Oaks on Bissonett es basado en el exitoso programa de la Weekley YMCA en los apartamentos Royale.

Antes que se realizará este proyecto con la YMCA, los apartamentos Royale estaban rodeados de pandillas y peligro de acuerdo el Departamento de Policía de Houston. Los niños del área enfrentaban varias presiones de las pandillas y muchos estaban involucrados en las drogas. Gracias a la YMCA, la mayoría de estas malas influencias se han desaparecido y los niños ahora están involucrados en programas positivos que les inculcan los buenos valores.

Los niños y familias de los apartamentos Oaks on Bissonett también enfrentan obstáculos como las familias de los apartamentos Royale ya que muchos no tienen los recursos para poder pagar los servicios que ofrece la Y. La mayoría de estas familias apenas generan lo suficiente para mantener a sus familias ganando menos de \$24,000 al año. Sin embargo, el centro comunitario le sirve a estas familias como una fuente hacia nuevas oportunidades que no serían disponibles sin la ayuda de la Y. La meta de este proyecto es de fortalecerlo a través del tiempo y de hacer los Oaks on Bissonett una comunidad más fuerte y segura.

Durante el primer año, la nueva directora del centro, Aida García, añadirá varios programas parecidos a esos realizados en los apartamentos Royale y la Weekley YMCA, y a la vez, basados en las necesidades de esa comunidad. A parte del programa de asesoría después del horario escolar, García ya está en planes de desarrollar un programa exclusivamente para jóvenes. Las noches de jóvenes, que se realizan cada semana, ya han comenzado y aproximadamente más de veinte jóvenes participan. Programas y actividades adicionales que se ofrecerán el próximo año incluyen ligas de varios deportes, programas de liderazgo, asesoría, campamentos del la YMCA, eventos comunitarios, clases de ejercicio, inglés, y clases de estudio bíblico.

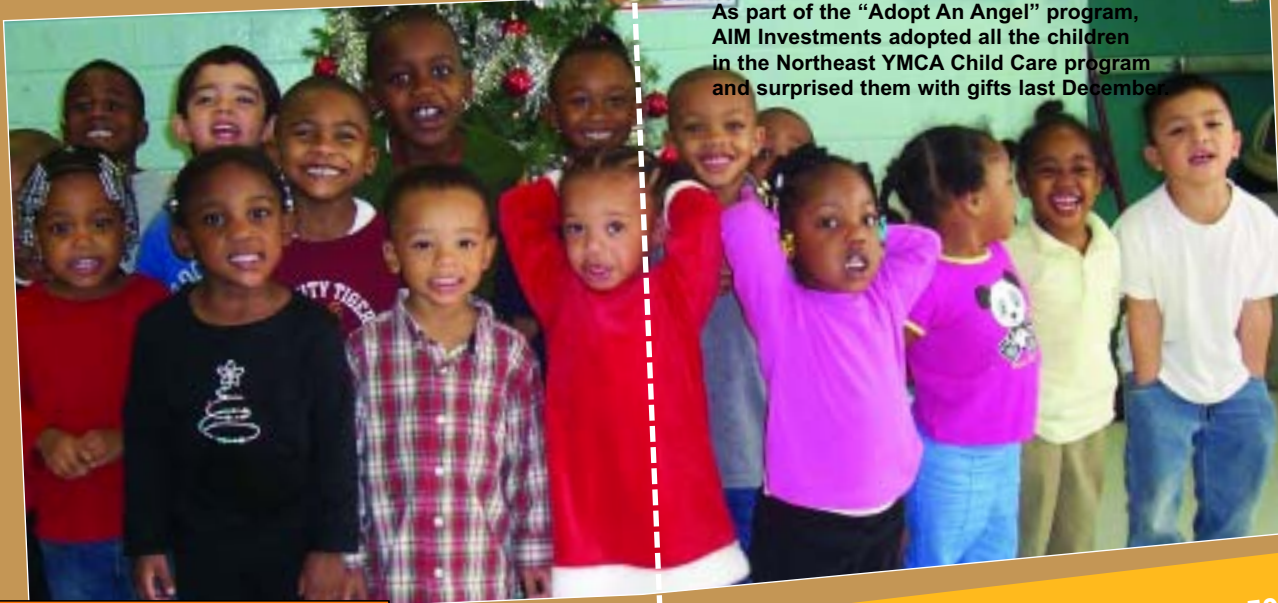
★ *Por Crystal Beavers*



10,000

stuffed animals

In just a few days, the YMCA of Greater Houston together with radio station, KSBJ and the Houston Police and Fire departments, collected approximately 10,000 stuffed animals to give to children in a time of crisis. Officers will carry the toys in their units to comfort children at a fire, an accident or any other traumatic event.



As part of the "Adopt An Angel" program, AIM Investments adopted all the children in the Northeast YMCA Child Care program and surprised them with gifts last December.



Haverstock Hills Apartment outreach kids on their way to their first baseball game at the Northeast Y.



Members from several Active Older Adults Programs congregate at the Northeast Y to celebrate Christmas.



More Haverstock Hills Apartment kids going to play baseball.

CENTER OF ATTENTION



NORTHEAST FAMILY YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON

7901 Tidwell Road @ North Wayside
Houston Texas 77028
Phone: 713.633.0530
Executive Director: Demetta Landry

Members500

Teens Inspired Yearly70
through School Partnerships

Youth Sports350

Seniors Reached Daily85

People Served Monthly76
through Community Outreach

Children Learning in Child Care121
and Afterschool Programs

THE LEGACY OF GENEROSITY Teaching the Next Generation about Philanthropy

6 My father set the example for me in philanthropy. The owner of a bank in Conroe, he was one of the founding members of the United Way in Montgomery County in the 1950's. I have tried to follow in his footsteps. This path has led me to help build four libraries in Montgomery County, to chair the local United Way, and it has led both my husband and I to take a very active role in the YMCA," said Conroe Family YMCA board member Lucinda Owens.

In addition to her financial gifts and contributions, Owens also supports the YMCA with her leadership abilities and is passionate about the YMCA outreach in the community. "We are here to empower our communities' children, while being positive

role models for them. I want to be fully involved in teaching the children in our community about caring, integrity, honesty and responsibility," she says.

Thanks to Lucinda, her husband Rigby, and other generous volunteers, the Conroe Family YMCA moved to its current location and has expanded to include an equestrian center (that will help



the disabled with rehabilitation), nature trails, swimming pool, splash zone and a facility with room for health and wellness programs.

Leading the next generation of philanthropists, Sydney Reeves, age 8, heard about the Partners campaign through her mother Martha, a former Conroe YMCA board member. She decided that she could contribute in a unique way. With some help from her family, she set up a lemonade stand at the YMCA spring soccer program (where her older sister Morgan played). The first Saturday, she raised \$20 and by the end of the program, she had raised \$100, enough to send a kid to camp for the week. At the Conroe Family YMCA Partners Victory Celebration, Sydney was presented with the "Best Campaign Idea" award. After being handed her award, she in turn handed in her small blue box filled with cash, coins and checks totaling \$100.

That is what it is all about here at the YMCA. Setting an example and leading the next generation to a fuller understanding of what it means to give back, teaching them that no gift is too small. We all have to start somewhere, whether it is watching your father make an indelible imprint on his community and striving to one day have the same kind of influence or jumping in, despite your young age, and raising some of the dollars yourself. What will your legacy be to the next generation?

Top: Lucinda Owens and her horse. **Bottom:** Sydney Reeves selling lemonade.

GIVING BACK

YMCA Day Camp Kids Get **CircusFit**

The YMCA of Greater Houston is delighted to join Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey in introducing the CircusFit program to children in the Houston area this summer.

On May 10th, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey staff and clowns met with YMCA Day Camp Directors to train and show them the exciting and fun CircusFit curriculum that camp staff will teach to kids this summer. The Circus Fit Program complements the YMCA's program because it was specifically created to provide educators with a fun way to incorporate fitness, nutrition and healthy living into their classrooms or after-school/ summer programs.

The trend towards childhood obesity is growing and this is an innovative way to help counter this steadily increasing epidemic. The CircusFit Program shows youth an awe-inspiring and action-packed approach to health and fitness – motivating them to get up and move with games and activities that are more play than work. Lesson tools can be made with readily available materials, such as plastic drink bottles or jump ropes. CircusFit is an easy and creative way to get children excited about exercising and will help kids stay healthy and physically fit, CircusFit!

YMCA Summer Day Camp activities nurture children's sprits, challenge their minds and strengthen their bodies. This collaboration provides kids with an exceptional opportunity to enjoy new activities and resources that are unavailable to them during the school year.

We are thrilled to join Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey in this venture as we work to build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all of our children. Together we're working to make YMCAs even better at strengthening the health of children and teens.



Ringling Brothers entertained the School at Post Oak kids while teaching them the importance of fitness in everyday life.



YMCA Association board member Tom Gee and wife.



A special thanks to Gerri Ayers who planned a wonderful event.



Former South Central YMCA Executive Director Quentin Mease and friends.



Joe Foster, YMCA Endowment Foundation Chair.



Taylor Johnson-Wilson of the Alief Family YMCA, Jean and Ray Durdin of Parkway Chevrolet and Gerri Ayers.

120 Years, The Legacy Continues

IN 1886, AS HOUSTON COMMUNITY LEADERS RAISED \$2,000, a commitment to the city's youth was made for our YMCA. Serving more than 811,000 people this past year, the YMCA continues to be known for its commitment to children and families. Behind each child who is loved and nurtured; behind each teen who finds a place of acceptance and hope for a positive future; behind each family that builds a foundation of encouraging communication and trust is a generous YMCA leader and donor. On May 16, the YMCA of Greater Houston held its annual gratitude dinner to honor its Chair's Roundtable donors, Heritage Club members and capital donors. Thanks to their support and commitment, the YMCA continues to fulfill its mission and to positively impact the community.



The YMCA of Greater Houston keeps the US Army in shape overseas

The YMCA of Greater Houston shipped exercise equipment to Asadabad, Afghanistan for the US ARMY'S 758 FORWARD SURGICAL TEAM under the command of Lt. Colonel D.A. Brown and at the request of Jennifer Gurney Weber, a surgeon assigned to that unit. The YMCA sends this gift to the brave men and women serving our country so that they may continue to stay strong and healthy while away from home.



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

Look mom ... I'm on tv

KHOU 11 reporter Jonathan Walton joined YMCA Camp Pine Tree campers for a day of archery.



While in Houston for the NBA All-Star game, San Antonio Spurs Tony Parker Jr. and his father filled the Cossaboom YMCA gym with toys, soccer balls and guitars. The guitars donated will be used for a new music program at that Y.



SAVE THE DATE

November 2, 2006
Annual Celebration

January 6, 2007
MLK Breakfast

March 16, 2007
Achievers Gala

April 4, 2007
Prayer Breakfast

May 17, 2007
Gratitude Dinner

YMCA Special Events Calendar for 2006- 2007