



Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Invest in Youth Community Appeal

Members of the Board of Directors and their teams of volunteers continue to contact community members for their donation to Invest in Youth.

Invest in Youth is a scholarship program at the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA that provides the necessary funding for people to fully participate in YMCA programs regardless of families' financial circumstances. During good and badeconomic times, there are people, from time to time needing just a little financial help, to allow children, parents, and seniors to be a part of YMCA programs. Last year, because of people's generosity, the YMCA was able to help some 500 families with over \$120,000 in scholarship assistance. In addition to this, the YMCA assists families of military personnel as recognition for their service to our country. The YMCA helped 161 military families with these scholarships.

"There has been a 38% increase in requests for scholarship assistance and financial aid from people because of the economy," stated Tom Van Deirse, CEO, Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. "People's donations are now needed more than ever."

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has been a charity in Michigan since 1964 with its clear mission "to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." In 2009, the Invest in Youth Community Appeal seeks to raise \$200,000.

Donations can be made by contacting a Board of Directors member, visiting the website at <http://www.gtbayymca.org> and click the "Giving" tab, or calling 933-9622 and ask for Dave Eitland. Board members include:

Nick Edson – Cherryland Electric Co-operative, Greg Williams – Edward Jones, Marc Judge – Traverse City State Bank, Lynn Schultz – Cass Street Ear, Nose & Throat Associates, Bill Stone – Plante & Moran Financial Advisors, Jill Fenton-Jones – Community Leader, David Gabel – Community Leader, Hank Johnson (Honorary director) – Community Leader, Greg Luyt – Bowerman, Bowden, Ford, Clulo & Luyt, PC, Konrad Molter – Traverse City West Senior High School, Joel Myler – Muskegon Development Corporation, Tina Piotrowski – Northwest Michigan Surgery Center, Kim Pontius – Traverse Area Association of Realtors, John Russell – Great Lakes Photo, Rita Whaley – Interior Design Studio, Inc., Ron Williamson – Coldwell Banker