

FIRST FRIDAY REPORT

A Monthly Update for Friends of the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina

MAY 2008

Greetings,

Here are a few highlights of what's happening through your YMCA:

- **2007 Victory Celebration, Round-Em-Up!** On Thursday April 3rd, the YMCA hosted our Partner with Youth Victory Celebration to recognize the success of our annual campaign. The campaign raises funds to provide scholarships to children and families in the communities we serve that need the YMCA but cannot afford the full cost to participate. More than 350 were in attendance enjoying good food and fellowship and hearing a keynote address by Joe Ehrmann. Joe is a former professional football player that has developed a ministry called "Building Men and Women for Others." The goal of the ministry is to inform, inspire and initiate individual, organizational and societal change that will empower men and women to be their very best personally, professionally and relationally. The goal of the ministry aligns with the work of the YMCA and how our youth sports programs are delivered. In the coming months, the YMCA will be working with community leaders to implement the ministry in youth sports programs throughout the community. These leaders believe the YMCA is the right organization to champion this initiative because of the impact we have and support we receive. Thanks to each of you for your commitment to the YMCA and making opportunities like this possible.
- **YMCA host County Health & Wellness Coalition.** On Friday April 25th, our YMCA hosted the initial meeting of the Forsyth County Health & Wellness Coalition. The Coalition, made up of medical professionals, elected officials, non-profit agency leaders and representatives from the education field, was assembled to bring groups together that can have the greatest impact on making Forsyth County a healthier place to live. The first initiative the Coalition will pursue is a grant called "Pioneering Healthier Communities." The goal of the grant is to drive policy, structural and environmental change in communities to promote healthy lifestyles. The YMCA served as the catalyst to bring these various groups together because creating healthier communities is a primary goal within our strategic plan, Healthy Communities 2015. Health & Wellness Coalitions will be assembled in Davie, Stokes, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties later in the year.
- **YMCA community makes a difference.** Earlier this year, tragedy struck one of the Stokes Family YMCA's long-time members. On Friday January 25th, Paul Kontz lost his wife, Sandy, and his home in a tragic fire. The fire completely destroyed all of Paul's belongings. Three days after the fire, Paul's good friend brought him to the YMCA to get him active and help take his mind off his tremendous loss. Paul and his friend would walk the track and, afterwards, sit in the lobby drinking coffee. YMCA members that knew Paul would go out of their way to talk to him and express their support. The members also placed a book at the front desk for people to sign and convey their sorrow for Paul's family. Gradually Paul began to come into the YMCA on his own. Many times you would see Paul hanging around the front desk for long periods of time. You could tell that he did not want to leave. He turned to the YMCA during his time of need and the members, volunteers and staff were there for him. To many people, the YMCA is much more than a place to go; it is an essential part of their lives. Paul's story is just one example of what makes the YMCA so special.

Thank you for your continued support.

IN SPIRIT, MIND & BODY,



Curt Hazelbaker
President and CEO