



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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For Immediate Release

**North Suburban YMCA Strong Kids
Fundraiser Nets \$ 220,000**

Northbrook, IL Over 400 supporters took part in the third annual Ken and Alta Thiel North Suburban YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign Fundraiser Dinner on May 21. The dinner, held at Allgauer's at the North Shore Hilton in Northbrook, was the culminating event of the Y's *Strong Kids Campaign* and has raised over \$220,000 to date.

The highlight of the evening was a special *Roast To Remember* video presentation featuring community volunteer Ron Bernardi of Sunset Foods. Mr. Bernardi also conducted the live auction which raised approximately \$17,000 and included Cubs Sky Box tickets, a pearl necklace, and a private New Year's Eve Party held at the YMCA.

Proceeds from the campaign, are used to support the YMCA's Strong Kids Fund that enables families in need of financial assistance within the NSYMCA surrounding communities to benefit from the Y's children's programs. These programs include after school care, aquatics, winter, spring and summer day camps as well as programs designed to enrich children and their families and promote a healthy lifestyle. The NSYMCA's philosophy is that no one should be turned away because of an inability to pay. The Y's 2009 goal is to raise \$260,000 to help assist over 1,000 people receiving support. Y officials expect to exceed that goal with additional contributions and sale of remaining auction items available for sale before the end of June.

"In these times of financial uncertainty, now more than ever we are asking people to reach out and help those who might not be able to enjoy the educational and life-enhancing YMCA experiences. Things that a lot of us take for granted like summer camp, youth fitness and health programs, and after-school care," commented Howard Schultz, CEO/Executive Director of the North Suburban YMCA.

The North Suburban YMCA located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook has served area families for over 40 years. Their mission is to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities through family-focused programming accessible to all.

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North Suburban YMCA • 2705 Techny Road • Northbrook, Illinois 60062
847-272-7250 • fax: 847-272-7587 • www.nsymca.org

Our mission: The North Suburban YMCA promotes values that build strong families and the health of each individual's spirit, mind and body in an inclusive, welcoming environment.



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PHOTO CAPTION: North Suburban YMCA Board Members Jeff Knipp, Board President Bob Dahlke Jr., Honoree Ron Bernardi, Laura Birt, and YMCA CEO/Executive Director Howard Schultz at the YMCA Strong Kids Fund-raiser at Allgauer's in Northbrook, Illinois. (Photo courtesy of Pioneer Press)

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