

COMMUNITY GROWS HERE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MORRIS COMMUNITY YMCA

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(815) 513-8080 | www.jolietymca.org

A Capital Campaign Update from the Morris Community YMCA

Fall 2019

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

For more than a decade, the Morris Community YMCA has been serving residents in Grundy County by offering programs in the areas of Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. To further grow its impact in the community, the Y announced plans for the development of a new full-facility on DuPont Avenue.



L-R: Kevin and Mary Olson, Mayor Dick Kopczick, and Jan and Guy Christensen pose for a photo after the Morris City Council meeting.

For the past year, a Capital Campaign Leadership Cabinet, comprised of local YMCA volunteers, has been working diligently behind the scenes to attract major investors and strategic partners to our project. While we hope to open the new facility within the next several years, the size, scope and timing will ultimately be determined by the generosity of the community in support of this project. The Capital Campaign recently received a major boost thanks to the announcement of a lead investment from the City of Morris.

"Like so many Grundy County residents, I am very anxious to see a full-facility YMCA open in our community," said City of Morris Mayor Dick Kopczick. "Whether the Y is providing affordable child care, teaching kids how to be safe in and around water, or providing a place for local residents to feel welcomed and engaged, I continue to be amazed by the impact this organization has had on our community each and every day. I know a full-facility YMCA will be a wonderful asset for Morris and Grundy County, and the City of Morris is proud to join municipalities across the country that have invested in the YMCA as a way to support and strengthen their communities," added Kopczick.

On behalf of the Morris Community YMCA, we would like to thank Mayor Kopczick and the City Council for their continued support of the YMCA.

WHERE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to share more information about the Morris Community YMCA and our Campaign. If you would like to stop by the branch, see one of our programs in action, or take a tour of one of our association's full-facility YMCA locations in Joliet or Plainfield, please contact Executive Director Missy Durkin at (815) 513-8210 or via email at mdurkin@jolietymca.org.



The leaves are falling and the air is much crisper, which means fall has officially arrived in Grundy County. At the Y, our back to school programming is in full swing, and we are finalizing plans for another youth basketball season in Morris and Coal City. In early December, we will welcome nearly 500 kids to basketball courts at locations throughout the county. With the help of our dedicated volunteer coaches, generous league sponsors, and wonderful community partners, we will have the privilege of teaching these young athletes the importance of teamwork, while helping them perfect their jump shots!



With the holiday season quickly approaching, our Capital Campaign Leadership Cabinet remains hard at work. We know that the best is yet to come, and can't wait to see what the new year will bring. Thank you for being a friend to the Y. We are one step closer to expanding our footprint in Grundy County, and I am so glad that you are along for the ride.

In Service,

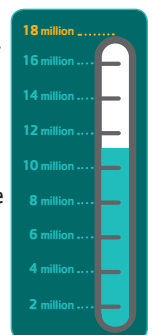
Missy Durkin
Executive Director | Morris Community YMCA

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH GIVING

Thank you to all of the generous donors who have already pledged their support to our Capital Campaign.

Pledged to Date: \$11 million

This pledge total does not include the value of the parcel of land that was generously donated in 2016 by the families who own and operate "D" Construction, Inc.



BUILDING A HEALTHY FUTURE

Morris YMCA Teams Up With Morris Hospital to Offer Free Prenatal Exercise Classes



The Y is always grateful to play a role in the important lifetime moments of those who walk through our doors. This is especially the case when it comes to the Morris Community YMCA's Prenatal Exercise class, which is designed to help expectant mothers maintain a healthy fitness level during pregnancy.

"The primary goal for any expectant mom is to maintain her fitness level if she had an established workout routine before her pregnancy," instructor Leigh Anne Hall said. "For the non-exerciser, it is to have her establish a fitness routine so that she will hopefully have an easier delivery and recovery period."

For Morris resident Kim Haiduke, the class was a new experience that helped her prior to giving birth to her fourth child, Lillian. Haiduke said attending the Morris Community YMCA's Prenatal Exercise class ultimately helped her post-delivery recovery.

"Leigh Anne motivated me to push myself and to want to be fit throughout my pregnancy," Haiduke said. "She was the reason I continued to attend class week after week. She went above and beyond to challenge me, support me, and get to know me on a personal level. I felt like I was working out with a friend, which made the time fly by!"

Haiduke gave birth to her daughter, Lillian, this past summer and said the class helped make her recovery process go quicker. Though her time in the class came to an end, she is already looking forward to the next stage of her relationship with the Y.

"When moms come in they always leave feeling great and glad they made the effort. We hope that the word will get out and more will join us along this wonderful journey," Hall added.

INSPIRING GENEROSITY

Donor Spotlight:
Jim and Carol Baum

As longtime Morris residents, Jim and Carol Baum have played an integral role in shaping our community. Even after retiring and relocating to New Hampshire several years ago, the Baums have remained active in the Morris community and continue to support a number of community initiatives. Recently, Jim and Carol pledged their support to the Y by making a lead gift to the Morris Community YMCA's Capital Campaign. Please join me in thanking Jim and Carol for their generosity to the YMCA and our community. We are truly blessed to have them as members of our Y family.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MAKING MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME: Sophia's Story



The Y's summer camp program is designed to provide meaningful life experiences for children even when hurdles may make that journey a little tougher. For eight year-old Sophia Day, the Morris Community YMCA's summer camp program did just that!

Sophia is a bundle of energy and one of her biggest strengths, according to her mom, Carley, is her glowing attitude that radiates toward others. Although Sophia was born with cerebral palsy, which does present some limitations, her friendliness and positive spirit is contagious.

Before camp started, Carley discussed Sophia's potential needs with Morris YMCA Youth and Family Director Sarah Porzel. Because Sophia uses a walker, Carley wanted to make sure that Y staff would be able to nurture her level of independence while she was attending camp.

"They were more than accommodating. One of the counselors had been an aid for her at the school she goes to. That was helpful," Carley said.

And, her fellow campers and Y staff were just as thankful to have Sophia participating in daily activities.

"When we played dodgeball, Sophia was always right in the middle of the action. When we played gaga, she was right in the gaga pit. If Sophia wanted to play basketball, she'd join right in. She seemed to really enjoy her camp experiences," Porzel said.

Led by Sophia's example, Porzel said other campers developed the important traits of respect and generosity.

"I think the coolest part of Sophia being in camp this summer was seeing how the kids rallied around her. She was one of the reasons camp was so awesome this year. Her fellow campers were always willing to lend a hand when she needed it," Porzel said.

Carley said the relationships Sophia built made it tough to say goodbye when the summer ended.

"On more than one instance, four o'clock would roll around and sure enough she wouldn't want to come home because she was having so much fun," Carley said.

Looking toward the future, Carley said she is excited for Sophia, who is currently enrolled in the Y's Before and After School Kid Zone program, to participate in additional Y programming.

"Sophia really wants to be involved in more. She already can't wait for camp next year," Carley added.

