

WHAT'S YOUR Y?



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

MARCH 2018

CAMPAIGN CABINET

JOHN JAMAR

Chairperson

DAVID & STEPHANIE BRULE

Major Gifts Chairs

DAVID & KATIE MAXON

RANDY & SHERRI ERICKSON

General Gifts Chairs

DICKINSON STAFF

JONATHAN RINGEL

Center Director

jringle@nlymca.com

RON DEUTER

Membership/Marketing

rdeuter@nlymca.com

JOHN LEECH

Aquatics

jleech@nlymca.com

KAREN POLLOCK

Health/Wellness

kpollock@nlymca.com

COURTNEY AMBLE

Youth Programs

camble@nlymca.com

GREG HENDRICKS

Maintenance

ghendricks@nlymca.com

CARRIE ROLLENHAGEN

Finance Clerk

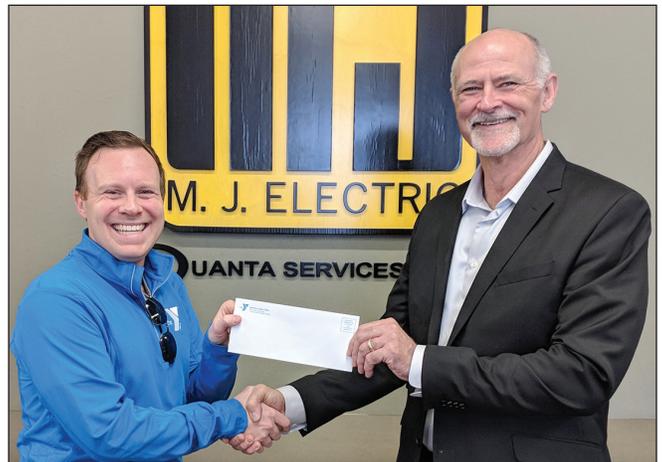
crollenhagen@nlymca.com

A TERRIFIC START! MORE THAN \$300K RAISED IN MONTH

What a month for the Northern Lights YMCA Capital Campaign!

Since launching at the end of January with a remaining goal of \$650,000, the community has responded in a big way, with more than \$300,000 in donations and pledges.

"We couldn't be more thrilled with the outpouring of support," Center Director Jonathan Ringel said. "This community is really rallying around this project."



M.J. Electric was the latest corporate entity to commit to the Capital Campaign. MJE President Ed Farrington (right) presented a \$150,000 donation to Northern Lights YMCA Director Jonathan Ringel in late February.

The news is even more positive when you factor in the total amount of donations to date. So far, the YMCA has received Capital Campaign donations from slightly more than 150 individuals and businesses. During a typical Annual Campaign, the YMCA usually receives closer to 400 donations. With that consideration, the overall Capital Campaign goal is well within reach.

An estimated project cost of \$2.4 million will get the YMCA a totally new pool, updated locker rooms, new fitness equipment and other general improvements. But the overall goal doesn't have to end there. Should the Y be fortunate enough to exceed the goal, additional scalable plans are ready for further improvement and expansion. A grand vision includes a fieldhouse with indoor running track. But that would require another \$3-4 million above the current scope.

"Hopefully in time, we'll be able to make that happen for the community," Ringel said. "It's really all about what this community is willing to support."

WHAT'S YOUR Y? IT STARTED WITH A SINGLE STEP

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. For the Matuszewski Family, their journey began in 2014 with son Kaden joining the YMCA swim team at age 10. "He has vision complications that make it hard for him to participate in sports that are offered at school," Kaden's mother Angie explained.

Living in Laona, Wis., about an hour away from Iron Mountain, the Matuszewski Family lacked access to a pool close to home.

"We knew it would involve a lot of time and sacrifice to make it possible for him to swim," Matuszewski said. "But we decided to give it a try and make it work."

That single decision to sign Kaden up for swim team opened more doors than the family could ever imagine. Kaden's sister Kailey, 8, also joined the swim team – quickly falling in love with the sport – and even qualifying for state competition in two strokes. Kaden's swimming, confidence and friendships have grown by leaps and bounds, and he recently completed his second 5K run.

The family's connection to the YMCA only grew stronger from there. Matuszewski and her husband Matt both started taking advantage of the opportunities at the Y. "We both started in the same place," she explained. "We were not very active, out of shape and really didn't know how to swim beyond a doggy paddle. We didn't know anything about cycling, and we had very little confidence in our abilities."

Taking those first few small steps, the Matuszewskis signed up for a cycling class then an adult lap swim class. From barely being able to swim 25 yards, only able to run one to two minutes at a time and knowing nothing about cycling, the duo has now both successfully completed a triathlon and multiple 5Ks.

"None of this would have happened had we not signed up our son for the swim team," Matuszewski said. "Every minute and every mile it takes us to get to the Northern Lights YMCA has been well worth it. And the icing on the cake has been the great friends we have gained from joining the Y."

The quote and inspiration from Lao Tzu has guided the family during their Y journey. "If the struggles you're facing seem too big, take small steps. If the dreams seem unattainable and the distance to get there too vast, take small steps," Matuszewski said. "Anything is possible. Take one small step, then build on it with another, and so on. Keep stepping and one day you will turn around and find that you've traveled miles from where you once were. Your goals and aspirations are only small steps away."

Matuszewski hopes her family's story can inspire others to join and become connected at the Y.

"Stop thinking about it and do it," she said. "You have so much to gain. There's something for everyone, at every age and at every level. You will have endless support from instructors, coaches and the great staff, as well as fellow members who have been or currently are in your same shoes. After joining, you will wonder why you waited so long to join in the first place."

With expansion on the horizon, Matuszewski sees only positive things happening with a new and improved Y.

"It would be such an asset to the community," she said. "It would provide more access to more programs to a larger population, exponentially attracting more people – including out of town families like us. It would be such a positive force toward bettering the health and well-being of the community and its members."



ANGIE MATUSZEWSKI

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: HOW DID THE Y SETTLE ON THE CURRENT PROJECT SCOPE AND BUILDING CONFIGURATION?

We have reviewed numerous concepts and building plans over the past five years. This has involved several architectural firms, various YMCA site visits, input from staff, members and donors, and extensive cost estimating. The current configuration represents the "best fit" for our community YMCA and has a sustainable economic profile over the long term (not too big and not too small).

PROGRESS METER

