



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 14, 2009**

**Media Contact:**

Lauri Hennessey

[lhennessey@seattleyymca.org](mailto:lhennessey@seattleyymca.org)

(206) 650-4153

## **YMCA of Greater Seattle Raises More Annual Support in 2009 than 2008**

---

***\$4.4 million raised surpasses previous year's fundraising***

Seattle, WA – The YMCA of Greater Seattle raised more dollars in 2009 during its annual Partners With Youth (PWY) Campaign than in 2008, a remarkable feat, given current economic conditions. The YMCA's 2009 goal of \$4.4 million was two percent higher than the previous year's, despite what many are calling the most challenging economy in a lifetime.

PWY Campaign Chair Carolyn Kelly says that the community stepped up because it recognized that in tough times, the YMCA is more important than ever.

"It's clear that many people heard our message that even in these tough times, we would not waver from our commitment to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. And they responded by donating generously and asking others to do the same," says Kelly.

From November through early April, 1,500 YMCA volunteers raised just over \$4.4 million from more than 12,000 individual donors, more than 1,200 of whom contributed through an online fundraising tool the YMCA implemented this year. The PWY Campaign also benefitted from increased business support from companies like Group Health, Microsoft, Wells Fargo, Safeco and Washington Mutual. According to Kelly, 95 cents of every dollar raised through the PWY Campaign goes directly to programs.

Each year, more than 94,000 children and teens receive aid through the dedication of thousands of volunteers who solicit PWY funds. Those funds enable youth from many different backgrounds to participate in a diverse range of YMCA programs and services. These include summer day- and overnight camps, as well as opportunities to learn and grow in safe, caring environments, interact with positive adult role models and develop leadership skills.

The YMCA of Greater Seattle continues to raise money for the It's All About Community! Capital Campaign. That campaign has funded the construction of a new state-of-the-art YMCA and is currently funding two similar facilities to serve King and south Snohomish counties. Funds from the capital campaign will also go towards enhancements to other facilities, including YMCA

Camp Orkila and YMCA Camp Colman. In 2008, the YMCA raised an additional \$8 million in the capital campaign, with contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals.

The first of the new facilities, the Dale Turner Family YMCA, opened in Shoreline last October with the Coal Creek Family YMCA in Newcastle and the new Highline YMCA in SeaTac both slated to open this fall.

More information about the capital campaign is available by calling (206) 382-5003 or visiting [seattleyymca.org](http://seattleyymca.org).

**About the YMCA of Greater Seattle:**

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is a charitable, non-profit organization serving King and south Snohomish counties since 1876. The YMCA engages more than 140,000 individuals annually through its 12 branches, two resident camps and more than 630 programs. Its programs and services include health and wellness, child care, youth development, education, foster care, family support and outdoor experiences. More information may be found at [seattleyymca.org](http://seattleyymca.org).

# # #