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YMCA of Greater Erie

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

For Immediate Release
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\$60,000 Donated to YMCA Scholarship Fund

Erie, PA . YMCA employees, members and friends of the YMCA have donated over \$60,000 to the YMCA's scholarship fund through its *We Build People* annual campaign which spanned March 1 . April 30, 2010.

Nationally, YMCAs rank among the top not-for-profit organizations receiving support from individuals, foundations and corporations according to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy's* annual *Philanthropy 400+* report. YMCAs rank fourth among U.S. human services organizations following United Way of America, American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, said YMCA CEO Gerry Vandemerwe. Closer to home, our YMCAs, celebrating 150 years of service to the Erie community, continue to provide over \$400,000 in programs and services to more than 4000 youth, teens, families and individuals. We're only able to answer their needs because of the unprecedented generosity of our YMCA family and their commitment to serving our neighbors.

According to Vandemerwe, the YMCA annual campaign experienced a 50 percent increase in employee participation, a 75 percent increase in volunteer participation and launched its first major gifts element to the campaign, The Chair's Roundtable, with 17 members giving at \$1000 or more in its inaugural year.

Annually, the YMCA scholarship fund benefits from *We Build People*, grants from the government and private sectors, individual gifts, corporate sponsorships and special events such as the Highmark Quad Games, Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, a golf tournament and two week-long biking tours.

About the YMCA of Greater Erie: The mission of the YMCA of Greater Erie is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Integral to all YMCA programs is character development and developmental assets. **Character** Development is based on the four YMCA core **values**-caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

For 150 years, the YMCA of Greater Erie has been dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. It is also the belief of the YMCA that no one should ever be denied services because of inability to pay. In addition to the YMCA's financial assistance program, income-based membership ensure that everyone can belong to the YMCA.

Four convenient locations throughout the Erie region offer programs for all ages from creative and fun youth sports programs to a wide variety of active older adults classes. Award winning early learning care for children is offered at twenty locations throughout Erie County. A fit lifestyle and a philosophy dedicated to honesty, caring, respect and responsibility, the YMCA of Greater Erie celebrates a century and a half of services to our community.

To learn more visit www.ymcaerie.org.

To make a gift to the YMCA's *We Build People* campaign, visit www.webuildpeopleerie.org, contact (814) 452-1432 or stop by any one of the four branches.

Gifts and bequests to the YMCA of Greater Erie will perpetuate your interest in youth and family development.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

