



For Immediate Release

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Rich Port YMCA Celebrates Past and Highlights Future

Chicago, IL (Feb. 23, 2007)—On Feb. 23, the Rich Port YMCA held its 61st annual awards banquet to recognize the leadership of key individuals and celebrate its renaissance as a state-of-the-art facility in LaGrange Park.

“The YMCA relies on the dedication of its employees, volunteers and board members to advance its mission. For more than 60 years, these individuals ensured the success of the Y’s presence in this area. We’re proud of how much we’ve accomplished together,” said Stephen S. Cole, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

The honorees were:

Charlene Vickery, Spirit of the YMCA
Glenn Mazade, Volunteer of the Year
Jeremiah Harris, Youth Representative of the Year
Karen Dziagwa and Deb Straus, Staff Member of the Year
Mary Randa and Bill Hendrickson, Vision Award

“We’re proud to continue Rich Port’s legacy at the new facility and we welcome the opportunity to build our future together,” said Kathy Bosco, executive director of Greater LaGrange YMCA.

The YMCA, currently located at 31 E. Ogden, has been a part of the LaGrange community for more than 60 years, and will continue to have a presence as members transition to a temporary facility just two miles away from the current location. The Greater LaGrange YMCA, a 10,000 square-foot facility, is located at 1100 E. 31st St. in LaGrange Park. The YMCA anticipates opening in early March.

“As we work with our board of directors and the community to make plans for the future, it’s equally important that we continue to serve the community today,” said Bosco. “I see this location as that next step toward our goal of building a new, permanent facility. This is just a glimpse of what will come.”

With an investment from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, the East 31st Street location features new equipment, a multipurpose room for fitness classes, a babysitting area, locker rooms equipped with steam rooms, and free Wi-Fi access. The Y also has collaborated with other organizations in the community to continue offering some of its most popular programs such as youth sports.

“I believe that by working together--our loyal members and supporters, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and the local board of directors--we can continue to serve our healthy, growing membership base and La Grange area. There’s a bright future for the Y!” Bosco noted.

About the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Through its 43 affiliate locations and more than 100 extension sites, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago helps children learn and grow, teaches young people to lead, brings families closer, and encourages individual health and well-being. The fourth largest non-profit in Chicago and one of the largest human services organizations in the nation, YMCA programs impact hundreds of thousands of lives annually, helping to strengthen neighborhoods and respond to community needs across Chicagoland. To learn more, visit www.ymcachgo.org.