



YMCA kicks off sustaining campaign

The YMCA of Van Wert County has just kicked off its 2009 Sustaining Campaign. This year's Sustaining Campaign theme is "My YMCA, My Community". "MY YMCA, MY COMMUNITY" has a special meaning to not only YMCA members, but also those in the community in need. "Being part of helping the community during these difficult economic times and having a meaningful part in the development of mental and physical health with needy Van Wert residents, is what "My YMCA" is all about. It is truly an honor to serve as Chairperson for the 2009 My YMCA, My Community Sustaining Campaign," said Eric McCracken, YMCA Executive Board Member.

This year's YMCA of Van Wert County Sustaining Campaign goal is \$50,000. While every Sustaining Campaign is important, the 2009 Sustaining Campaign has a much larger sense of urgency. "The money raised will be used to fund memberships for 565 children and family members who are identified as less fortunate, without jobs, struggling through tough economic times or have experienced family crisis that prevents them from being able to pay," said Hugh Kocab, executive director of the YMCA. This urgent Sustaining Campaign is the result of the hundreds of requests the YMCA has received for financial assistance. In the past year the financial aid recipients have

doubled and that number continues to grow. "Financial assistance is based on ability to pay. It is the practice of the YMCA, and the mission of Y-USA, that no person is denied membership or program participation by reason of inability to pay," added Kocab.

Every family and child deserves a place where they feel accepted and recognized, where they can work to develop a strong mind, body and spirit. At the YMCA of Van Wert County, one of its most important goals has been to enrich the lives of youth in the community. A sustaining campaign helps the YMCA meet its charitable role as a 501(c)(3) not for profit entity. As a charity, the YMCA is called on to raise money, develop donors and build support for programs and initiatives that fulfill its mission and purpose in the community. "With a volunteer board of directors and a very small management team, we are able to apply all Sustaining Campaign contributions towards our financial assistance program" added Kocab.

For further information about the Sustaining Campaign, call Hugh Kocab, J.J. McClain or Kallie Manz at 419.238.0443 or speak with any YMCA board members actively fundraising for this year's campaign.

More information can also be found about the YMCA of Van Wert County by visiting www.vwymca.com