

## **WOOD RIVER COMMUNITY YMCA REACHES \$1 MILLION MARK IN FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE POSED BY THE WORKS OF GRACE FOUNDATION**

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*YMCA to Receive Matching Gift From Foundation*

**KETCHUM, Idaho** - Five days before the February 1st deadline, the Wood River Community YMCA reached the \$1 million mark in a matching challenge posed by The Works of Grace Foundation, a Texas-based non-profit organization. The foundation, which supports numerous causes that make a difference in the lives of children, pledged in December to give a \$1 million matching gift to the YMCA if the organization could raise \$1 million by February 1, 2004. With the help of donations from individuals, foundations, and private organizations, the YMCA surpassed its goal, announcing that, to date, it has raised a total of \$1.1 million towards the challenge and \$3.6 million toward its overall capital campaign.

In an exciting twist, the matching funds from The Works of Grace Foundation actually puts into motion a \$3 million gift for the new center – the \$1.1 million in donations from members of the valley community, the matching \$1 million gift from The Works of Grace Foundation, and the \$1.5 million that the YMCA raised before starting the challenge, have become part of an additional challenge posed by the City of Ketchum, which has agreed to match the first \$3 million of donations with the submission of a \$3 million corresponding contribution for voter approval. These additional gifts have brought the YMCA even closer to its overall goal of \$16 million for the development of the center, which will be dedicated to the physical and cognitive enrichment of the entire Wood River Valley community, especially its children.

“We cannot thank The Works of Grace Foundation and the entire valley community enough for their unparalleled generosity and support of the Wood River Community YMCA,” said Cynthia Murphy, Wood River Community YMCA Board Chair. “It is truly remarkable that we have met and surpassed the fundraising challenge ahead of schedule, and we are honored by the way our donors have embraced our goal of creating a center where all of the valley’s families can gather together as a community for recreation, education, fitness, culture, and fun.”

“We are thrilled to present the Wood River Community YMCA with this matching gift and hope that our pledge will inspire others in the community to continue to support the mission of this amazing organization,” said Benjamin Wood, President, The Works

of Grace Foundation.

“As a foundation committed to sustaining causes that make a positive impact on children, we feel strongly that the YMCA will be a tremendous asset to everyone in the valley community, particularly its youth. By doing tangible things to meet the needs of the valley community in a tremendous spirit of kindness, the impact on the lives they touch will be immeasurable.”

Over 150 years in existence, the YMCA is collectively the largest non-profit community service organization in the United States. The new Wood River community center was granted YMCA status earlier this past year and has developed architectural plans, as well as a business plan, for the facility. In addition, public transportation to the new YMCA will be made available for people throughout the valley and the center will be affordable and accessible to everyone in the community. The YMCA is still actively pursuing fundraising efforts toward its capital campaign to help put its plans for the center in motion.

“Supporting the Wood River Community YMCA has become an important mission, not only for the valley community, but for my family in particular,” said Jamie Everitt, donor and Blaine County resident. “As a husband and father of four boys, I wholeheartedly embrace the organization and know that the new center will play a significant role in our lives. By creating a safe place where all families can enjoy recreational time together, the YMCA is providing an invaluable service to our area, and I am honored to be able to contribute to its fundraising efforts.”

“Watching the Wood River YMCA develop has been a tremendous pleasure,” said Jim Everett, CEO of the Treasure Valley Family YMCA in Boise. “This grass roots effort epitomizes the heritage of the YMCA movement. Volunteers coming together for the purest of reasons; a sincere desire to create a better community for all. The perseverance, dedication and altruism of volunteers and donors has been inspiring.”

For more information on contributing to the Wood River Community YMCA’s capital campaign, please contact Mike Wolter, Campaign Director for the Wood River Community YMCA, at 208-726-6260 or email to [mike@WoodRiverYMCA.org](mailto:mike@WoodRiverYMCA.org). Additional information on the YMCA organization can be found at [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net).

The Works of Grace Foundation, a non-profit 501(c), provides support and inspiration to individuals, programs and organizations that make a difference in the lives of children and families, primarily in Idaho and Texas. The following are some examples of their ongoing/substantial support: Sun Valley Center for the Arts; Company of Fools; Sun Valley Writers' Conference; Sawtooth Botanical Gardens; College Scholarship Program for the Children of Blaine County Teachers; Gilda’s Club North Texas, the first Texas affiliate of a national program created in memory of comedian Gilda Radner, where people with cancer and their families and friends come together to build emotional and social support as a supplement to medical care - free of charge; Night Owls, providing an evening of respite for parents who daily meet the challenges of children requiring unusual medical or physical care; Crystal Charity, which makes contributions to

children's charities in Dallas County; and Jonathan's Place, a licensed foster group home that provides care and shelter to young children in crisis. Additional information may be found on [www.worksofgracefoundation.org](http://www.worksofgracefoundation.org).

**Wood River Community YMCA** was granted YMCA status in 2003 and is currently in fundraising and planning for a center that will serve all of Wood River Valley. For more information on contributing to the capital campaign, please contact Mike Wolter, Campaign Director, at 208-726-6260 or [mike@woodriverymca.org](mailto:mike@woodriverymca.org). The YMCA, over 150 years old, is collectively the largest non-profit community service organization in the United States. Additional information on the YMCA organization can be found at [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net).