

**THE WORKS OF GRACE FOUNDATION PLEDGES \$1 MILLION  
MATCHING GIFT TO WOOD RIVER COMMUNITY YMCA  
CAMPAIGN IF \$1 MILLION RAISED BY FEB. 1, 2004**

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**KETCHUM, Idaho** - In the midst of the capital campaign to build the new Wood River Community YMCA, a center that will be dedicated to the physical and cognitive enrichment of the entire Wood River Valley community, especially its children, The Works of Grace Foundation, a Texas-based non-profit organization, has posed a challenge to donors, pledging to give a \$1 million matching gift if the organization can raise \$1 million by February 1, 2004. In an exciting twist, if the YMCA can reach the \$1 million mark before the 1st of February, the matching funds could actually turn into a \$6 million gift for the new center— The donations will also be part of an additional challenge posed by the City of Ketchum, which has pledged to match the first \$3 million of donations with the submission of a \$3 million corresponding contribution for voter approval, doubling every dollar of personal donation toward the project with no new taxes of any kind. The City has also made a significant contribution of land by providing a Park and Ride lot for the new facility. Since the Wood River Community YMCA has already raised \$1.5 million to date, if it can meet the goal proposed by The Works of Grace Foundation and the City of Ketchum, its total awarded funds could equal \$6.5 million, bringing the organization even closer to its overall goal of \$16 million!

“The impact of this additional \$1 million gift by The Works of Grace Foundation to our community would be phenomenal,” said Cynthia Murphy, Wood River Community YMCA Board Chair. “It would enable us to bring to fruition a center for recreation, education, fitness, and culture where people of all ages and interests can find programs that are inclusive, engaging, challenging, and fun. We are optimistic that the people of the Wood River Valley will rise to this amazing challenge, allowing us to build a place for all of the valley’s families to gather as a community; a place that is accessible to everyone, regardless of means.”

“ The Works of Grace Foundation provides support and inspiration to individuals, programs and organizations that make a difference in the lives of children, and by our example, we hope others will do the same,” said Benjamin Wood, President, The Works of Grace Foundation. “By presenting this challenge, we hope to inspire others to jump on the bandwagon and offer their support to this worthwhile organization. Working together, we can truly help the YMCA carry out its mission of building strong

kids, strong families and an even stronger community. Every gift, both large and small, truly makes a difference.”

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 year and has also developed architectural plans, as well as a business plan, for the facility. In addition, public transportation to the new center will be made available for people throughout the valley.

“The Wood River Community YMCA is a perfect example of an organization whose daily efforts show support, kindness and love between fellow human beings, making human existences qualitatively better,” said Theresa Castellano-Wood, founder of The Works of Grace Foundation. “We are excited about supporting an organization that truly represents our mission of doing “works of grace;” real things, meeting needs in a tremendous spirit of kindness for one another. The impact on the lives they touch is immeasurable.”\_\_For more information on contributing to the \$1 million challenge for the Wood River Community YMCA, please contact Mike Wolter, Director of Development/ 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).