

Metro Atlanta YMCA

President's Letter

Fred L. Bradley

Sharing news and events with friends of the Metropolitan Atlanta YMCA

February 2008

Eduardo Martinez of UPS elected to Metro board

We welcome Ed Martinez, The UPS Foundation director of programs & corporate relations. Ed joined UPS in 1976 as a package handler and has held various management positions within operations, including corporate accounting and finance, risk management, acquisitions, and corporate counsel. Ed has lived in Atlanta since 1992, with his wife and three children.

You're invited to the 45th Good Friday Breakfast

Please join us March 21, 2008, for an inspirational morning of **faith, family and fellowship**. You'll hear inspirational keynote speaker, theologian and educator **Fred B. Craddock**, named one of the top 10 living preachers by *Newsweek*, and Bandy Professor of Preaching and New Testament, emeritus, at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. For details on time and place or to RSVP, contact Kristen Obaranec, 404-267-5335, or kristeno@ymcaatlanta.org.

Grants impact refugee outreach program

As part of its refugee outreach program, the **Decatur-DeKalb Y** received a \$50,000 **Safeco Insurance** grant and a \$25,000 grant from the **Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation** for playing field renovations at Indian Creek Elementary School in Clarkston. The funding supports the community collaboration committed to improving services to refugees, immigrants and other vulnerable populations in the Clarkston area, especially children, youth and their families. Our participation in this collaboration reflects our deep commitment to the Y mission of being open to and serving people of all abilities, ages, backgrounds, cultures, faiths, and incomes.

YMCA Head Start program expands

The Metro Atlanta YMCA Head Start program continues to grow, reflecting the need in many of our Atlanta neighborhoods. Head Start provides an opportunity for children to reach school age with a solid foundation for learning. With an expansion into **northeast Georgia**, we now serve an **additional 310 children at five sites** in Elbert, Oglethorpe, Morgan, and Greene counties. With \$3 million annually in funding for this area, our Head Start program now operates with a \$20 million budget. To date, seven YMCA sites are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Responding to community needs

With an \$84 million **Partner With Youth Comprehensive Campaign – Wave II**, the Metro Atlanta YMCA is responding to a number of challenges facing our community:

- Obesity and the health problems it causes are rising challenges. These problems are costly to individual lives and to our economy and healthcare system.
- Children who need supervised, safe places to go for early childhood education, after school and during the summer.
- The lack of a sense of community in a metro area where people often don't know their neighbors.

More on the Comprehensive Campaign...

We are aggressively addressing these challenges through new and expanded programs and facilities, increased financial assistance, and new and expanded endowment funds. We are extremely grateful for the \$8 million gift from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation which is designated for the new Dean Rusk Head Start Academy, the East Lake Outdoor Youth Development Center and the endowment fund to sustain pre-school quality.

The campaign, which raised \$21 million in 2007, is led by former board chairman **Bill Holby** of King & Spalding, along with a dedicated group of civic leaders and Metro board members: **David Homrich**, AMB Group LLC - YMCA 'Family' Gifts vice chair
Charlie Yates Jr., Zurich, & **Milton H. Jones Jr.**, Bank of America - Leadership Gifts vice chairs
Joe Arnold, SunTrust Bank - Institutional Gifts vice chair
Dave Stockert, Post Properties - Major Gifts vice chair
Bo Spalding, Jackson Spalding – Communications vice chair
Melanie Platt, AGL Resources Foundation - Partner With Youth annual campaign chair
Melissa Babb, endowment and planned giving committee chair
Denis Duncan, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and **Kevin Race**, Wells Real Estate Funds – Y-CEO Heritage Invitational Golf Tournament co-chairs

In this issue we are featuring one of our capital projects, the Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy at West End. Read on.

Where else but the Y...

Fact: At-risk children who attend a quality, early childhood program are 33 percent more likely to graduate from high school than those who did not.

Community need: As the largest single provider of Head Start programs in Atlanta, the YMCA serves more than 1,725 children per day. Two of the centers are in badly deteriorated, former Atlanta Public Schools buildings, making it increasingly difficult to administer the program and maintain NAEYC's stringent standards.

YMCA response: In partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the YMCA will construct a **new Head Start Academy in the former Dean Rusk Elementary School in Atlanta's West End**. It is centrally located off Joseph Lowery Boulevard on I-20 West. The new center will serve approximately **560 children ages six weeks to five years** with quality, early learning programs like infant/toddler care, traditional Head Start, extended day for Head Start, and summer camp. Where else but the Y...can you donate with such impact?

Mission moment

The Metro Atlanta YMCA is 150 years strong, celebrating 150 years of Atlanta service in 2008! Throughout the year we will pay tribute to our history and honor the legacy of past and current leaders. We are proud to serve the Atlanta area, and in 2008 our mission will be accomplished with an extraordinary group of Metro and branch board members, dedicated partners, quality programs, committed staff, and our sights set on the next 150 years.

I look forward to reporting to you in future letters...