



# President's Letter

Edward G. Munster

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## Looking ahead

As your new CEO, I am pleased to report our news and events. Although we face many unknowns with the economy, I am optimistic and looking ahead. Our **2009 priorities** focus on four areas that will position us for **future growth and sustainability**: strategic planning, fiscal discipline, organizational culture, and program development.

Our YMCA has tremendous depth in its volunteer leadership and tenured staff. The combined talent, knowledge and experience are greatly responsible for our success. Two recent staff promotions are well-deserved: **Eston Hood** is the new **chief operating officer**, and **Dan Pile**, **senior vice president of operations**.

I look forward to reporting in future letters and am available for your questions, comments and suggestions.

## Special thanks to a special Y friend

I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of long-time Y supporter **Ben F. Johnson III, retired Alston & Bird managing partner**. Ben's role on the Metro board has been vital, and his expertise, wit, vision, and leadership always were on the mark.

Ben served as the 1999-2000 Metro board chairman, during which time the Y-2010 long-range strategic plan was developed. He made significant contributions to the executive, board development and Partner With Youth campaign committees and chaired the recent CEO search committee. Ben supported the Y-CEO golf tournament and always led the board by his example as a gracious and generous donor. He was honored as the 2004 Bransby Christian Leadership Award recipient. Ben is rotating off the Metro board, and we deeply appreciate his commitment to and governance of the Metro Atlanta YMCA.

## Community collaboration and impact

**The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia Foundation** awarded a three-year \$250,000 grant to the Metro Atlanta YMCA. Because of their generosity and concern for the health of local residents, 600 severely obese adults will participate in THE COACH APPROACH® to lose weight and reduce their risk of diabetes.

At five local YMCAs, staff will support these adults with a personal wellness coach, individual plans for physical activity, education on nutrition and healthy eating, and behavior change self-management skills. As an active Y board member, **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia President, Monye Connolly**, recognizes the unique community impact of the Metro Atlanta Y's research and evidence-based health programs. Thanks, Monye!

Sharing news and events with friends of the Metropolitan Atlanta YMCA

## New board members

We welcome three new Metro Atlanta YMCA board members.

**Warren Carson**, a certified public accountant, is an audit partner in **KPMG's Atlanta office**. He has more than 21 years of experience serving global manufacturing and commercial clients, serving as the global lead engagement partner on several major engagements. Warren received his undergrad and masters degrees from the University of Georgia. He lives in Alpharetta with his wife and three children.

**Richard Gerakitis** is a partner at **Troutman Sanders** with 26 years experience in litigation, mediation and arbitration. He is the leader for the firm's labor and employment practice group. Also a Bulldog alumnus (undergraduate), he received his J.D. from Mercer University. Richard participated in Y programs as a child and teen, and his kids worked at the Y, so joining the board was a natural progression.

**S. Paul Shailendra** is the senior development manager of **Shailendra Group** and is responsible for the company's real estate development projects in the Southeast. He is an alumnus of Woodward Academy and received his B.S. in civil engineering from Georgia Tech. His civic involvement includes the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, Woodruff Arts Center, Woodward Academy President's Advisory Council, and L.E.A.D. Atlanta. Paul and his wife, Amanda, live in Midtown.

## Partner With Youth builds strong kids, families, communities

In January, annual campaign chair **Melanie Platt, AGL Resources**, kicked off the **Partner With Youth annual campaign**. The association goal is \$3.6 million, and the Metro goal, under Melanie's leadership, is \$620,000, which will allow more children, teens and families to participate in early childhood education, teen leadership development, summer resident camp, health and well-being programs. This year, **more children and families than ever need Y programs and services**, so please give serious consideration to participating in this worthwhile community effort.

The current \$84 million **Partner With Youth comprehensive campaign** is on track with more than 60 percent of the money raised (\$51 million) in 2007 and 2008. The committee is restructured with the following volunteer leadership: **Bill Holby, King & Spalding**, comprehensive campaign cabinet chair; **Milton H. Jones Jr., Bank of America**, and **Joe Arnold, SunTrust Bank**, consolidated committee co-chairs; **Dave Stockert, Post Properties**, camp cultivation chair; **Melanie Platt, AGL Resources**, annual campaign chair; **Melissa Marek Babb, Harbert Management Corporation**, planned giving chair; **Rick Smith, Equifax**, and **Steve Hennessy, Hennessy Automobile Companies**, Y-CEO planning committee co-chairs.

## Rise and Shine

You and your family are invited to attend the 46th annual **Good Friday Prayer Breakfast, April 10, 2009**, at the Cobb Galleria. It is a wonderful start to the Easter weekend and is an annual tradition for many of our families. **John Manning, Manning Lilenfeld, LLP**, will return as event host. For details, call 404-267-5335 or go to [www.ymcaatlanta.org](http://www.ymcaatlanta.org).

## Volunteer for the Impact

When she was 8 years old, Y swim team member **Rebecca Aman** raised money for the **Sanders Buckhead YMCA Partner With Youth annual campaign**. She received pledges from friends and family members based on the number of laps she swam at the aquathon. The first year she swam 112 laps, raising more than \$600. The second year, she raised more than \$700, and her parents matched the amount. Today, her mom is a Buckhead Y board member and Partner With Youth campaigner. "I have a lot of privileges," says Rebecca, now 11. "I can help give other kids the same opportunities to participate in Y programs that are so important to me." Rebecca Aman volunteers for the impact. Won't you?

Where else but the Y...can you join, play, donate, and volunteer with such impact?

