



Decatur-DeKalb Family YMCA 2009 Volunteers of the Year



John & Ellen Yates

Acceptance: “I have enjoyed contributing to *Partner with Youth* because I get to see evident results. The kids always have smiles on their faces. When they make new friends and learn new skills, it’s priceless,” says Ellen.

Family Feeling: “When we moved here, we were looking for a Y family home. We were very fortunate to live in the Decatur area, where we quickly gravitated to the Decatur-DeKalb Y. This facility really brought us together for various athletic events that we were able to participate in. We’ve remained active for 28 years,” says John.

Strength: “The Y’s emphasis on spirit, mind and body produces strong individuals who, in turn, create stronger families and communities. Atlanta has outstanding Y programs with volunteers who aren’t out to get recognition, but truly desire to give back to the community. We find this to be a very unique aspect at the Y,” say Ellen and John.

Combined Community Involvement: YMCA board member, Partner with Youth volunteer, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta AFLAC Cancer Center volunteer, Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University board member, Young Audiences of Woodruff Arts Center board of advisors.

John’s Career: Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP, partner

Son: Paul