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YMCA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **North Suburban YMCA Turns Its Focus to Fortifying the Future**

**Northbrook, IL**– As the [North Suburban YMCA](http://www.nsymca.org) continues to recover from the pandemic, it is focusing on ensuring that the community has access to charitable programs, financial assistance, and operational security for generations to come. The Y has established a series of *Fortifying for the Future* initiatives to help build a stronger community and support those who need it most. One such initiative was the kick-off of the Y's inaugural staff campaign that raised over \$6,000.

The initiative was chaired by NSYMCA Camp/SmartLab Director Ricky Gonzalez. The Team Captains included Edwina DelGuidice, Guest Services Manager; Alex Brodell, Sports Coordinator; Anna Harris, Dance Instructor, Joe Mosser, Afterschool and Summer Camp Counselor; and Melanie Riemann, Lifeguard.

“The staff’s *Fortifying the Future* campaign was a huge success. Everyone came together to demonstrate amazing leadership and helped save our Y from the devastating economic hardships of the pandemic. I am honored to be part of this team and serve our community,” said Gonzalez.

“I wanted to help make this campaign a success because I strongly believe in the purpose of the Y as the heart of the community. What was most meaningful to me was how quickly you see contributions make a difference to people’s lives. Even a few dollars can change the world of one child, like learning to swim or being able to take a dance class or enjoying summer camp - something that couldn’t be possible for many otherwise,” added Anna Harris.

“They say that it takes a village, and that’s certainly the case with the NSYMCA,” beamed Kathy Fielding, CEO at the NSYMCA. “More than 50% of our team members stepped up to ensure the success of the staff *Fortifying the Future* campaign. I’m so proud of our loyal, dedicated and committed Y team.”

The Y is also offering a variety of new family-friendly summer fundraising events with all proceeds going to support the Y, ensuring that it will continue to serve the community for future generations. Drive-In Movie Nights, Trivia Night Under the Stars, Bingo, and other community activities will provide members and neighbors with a safe place to gather.

As the Y continues to adapt to the new post-pandemic world, it has evolved the Ken & Alta Thiel Strong Kids Fundraising Dinner to multiple summer 2021 events named *Community Strong*. The new *Community Strong* fundraisers include an inaugural *Community Strong Golf Outing and Patio Party* July 22, and a *Community Strong Week* with an online auction, impact stories, and other surprises from August 22 – 28, culminating in a *Dinner under the Stars* fundraiser. The *Community Strong* events will fund the Y's financial assistance scholarships, and support its operations and community programs.

For more information about the North Suburban YMCA's programs and event, or to make a donation, visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org) or contact the Y at 847-272-7250.

### **About the North Suburban YMCA**

The North Suburban YMCA services Northbrook and 14 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help its residents become healthier, more connected, and confident, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The NSYMCA focuses on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility and is a charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org)



**Photo caption:** The North Suburban YMCA staff's *Fortifying the Future* initiative raised over \$6,300 to help support its operations and community programs.