



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BankFinancial Donation Supports YMCA Water Safety Initiative

Northbrook, IL: January 2018 – The [North Suburban YMCA](http://www.nsymca.org) has received a generous donation from BankFinancial to support its new water safety pilot program for children. The \$5000 gift will support the Y's unique "2 Seconds 2 Long!" initiative to ensure that all second-graders are provided with swim instruction to stay safe around water.

Two seconds is all it takes for someone to drown. Every day, two children die as a result of drowning; In fact, drowning is the second-leading cause of death for children between the ages of 5 and 14. As part of its 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2018, the NSYMCA is launching a dedicated effort to provide the opportunity for every child in its communities to learn the essential skills to be confident and safe around water.

"2 Seconds 2 Long!" will begin with a pilot program in partnership with the Eugene Field Elementary School in Wheeling. Second-grade students will be offered free water safety assessments with the Y's aquatics staff, and children lacking adequate skills will be invited to participate in a free five-week instruction program. Teachers will work with children and families in both English and Spanish, reflecting the bi-lingual population of the school. The long-term plan after completion of the pilot program is to expand its availability to students at other schools in the Y's service area, covering 15 northern suburbs.

BankFinancial's donation to the Y reflects the institution's commitment to serving the larger community.

"BankFinancial prides itself on making contributions in support of the local communities where we do business," noted Gregg Adams, Divisional President. "We applaud the YMCA for their efforts to protect children around water and are happy to lend our support."

Winter registration is now open for all North Suburban YMCA programs, including swim instruction for all ages. For program information, visit NSYMCA.org. For more information about how to support the Y, contact Kim Nyren, Senior Director of Community Investment, at knyren@nsymca.org or 847 272 7250.

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Photo Caption: BankFinancial has donated \$5000 to support the North Suburban YMCA. Pictured: BankFinancial Senior Vice President Mary Tritsis, NSYMCA President/CEO Howard Schultz, and BankFinancial Assistant Vice President Claire Veslino.

About the [North Suburban YMCA](#)

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018, the North Suburban YMCA provides individuals in Northbrook and the surrounding areas with programs and tools that help them become healthier, more connected, and confident. We believe that lasting personal and social change can only come about when we all work together to invest in our community and each other. Every day we work side by side with our neighbors throughout 15 surrounding communities to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. We focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility. The NSYMCA is a charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at NSYMCA.org.