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**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Halloween Spirits Possess North Suburban YMCA at Annual Spooktacular Party**

**Northbrook, Illinois: October 2014** – With a frighteningly fun variety of activities for all ages, the North Suburban YMCA launched the Halloween season with its Seventh Annual Spooktacular Halloween Party on October 19. Over 1500 guests flooded the Y’s Northbrook facility, which was transformed from top to bottom with seasonal spirit. This year’s party added new outdoor activities, silent auctions, and raffle prizes, along with the ever-popular inflatable bounce houses, creepy haunted houses, and one-of-a kind Spooky Pool Boat Ride. Proceeds from the party benefited the NSYMCA Strong Kids Fund, which makes Y programs available to individuals and families in financial need.

The Y’s gym and classrooms were busy with costumed children enjoying an early start to their Halloween fun. Local businesses offered trick-or-treat stations around the gym with candy for kids and special promotions for parents. Other rooms featured art projects, dance parties, face painting, and other activities. On the lower level, brave patrons shrieked as they explored haunted houses and journeyed across the spooky pool, a unique attraction brought to life by volunteer scuba divers from the Northbrook Fire Department’s Dive Team. Taking advantage of the beautiful weather, families enjoyed an outdoor train ride. Costume contests for all ages capped the afternoon’s activities.

“This year’s Halloween Party was more fun than ever, and the diversity of the crowd was amazing,” said Howard Schultz, Executive Director/CEO of the NSYMCA. “It was tremendous to see so many people of different cultures coming together to share this common experience as one community of neighbors, enjoying the silliness and the scariness together. Couple with our reserved early visit time for individuals with special needs, the Y staff really pulled out all the stops to make this Halloween celebration as inclusive as possible, and I think we truly succeeded.”

Local business sponsors helped make the party a success with monetary, product, and personal support. Headline sponsors included Wolf’s Lair K9, The Complete Dog, 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Media, and F.E. Moran, with additional sponsor support from Exercise Connection, Card & Party Giant, California Pizza Kitchen, AA Service Co., Buffalo Wild Wings, Abt, Sarpino’s Pizza, Pinot’s Palette, Mergenthaler Plumbing, Dairy

Queen, Sunset Foods, Heartland Institute, Chiro One, and Kidoodles. The support of sponsors, together with legions of Y staff members and volunteers, created a memorable and successful event.



***Photo 1 Caption: NSYMCA CEO Howard Schultz, left, judged a massive costume contest at the North Suburban YMCA's Halloween Spooktacular on October 19.***



***Photo 2 Caption: Families enjoyed outdoor train rides during the North Suburban YMCA's Halloween Party on October 19.***

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

The YMCA is a not-for-profit entity and relies on donations to make services available for all families and individuals in its 15-city region. All board members are volunteers, who donate their time, talents and financial resources. Located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook, the YMCA has served the northern suburbs of Chicago for over 45 years. The Y is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, providing programs and services that address the needs of our diverse community and are accessible to all. For more information or to make a donation, contact Barb Flanagin at 847-272-7250 or [bflanagin@nsymca.org](mailto:bflanagin@nsymca.org), or visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org).