



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Suburban YMCA Community Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Northbrook, IL: The North Suburban YMCA hosted a fun-filled, festival style community party on August 25 in honor of its 50th year in its Northbrook facility. Over a 1000 people enjoyed live music from a giant main stage, kids' activities, and delicious food at "50Fest" with special attention given to founding members who helped establish the Y in the 1960s.

Children found plenty of options to keep busy during the party as they played in bounce houses, selected the perfect balloon animal and airbrush tattoo, and took a break from the sun in air conditioned video game trailers. Families came together in the Bingo tent, winning fun prizes with the help of celebrity callers WBBM-FM news anchor Lisa Fielding, Congressman Brad Schneider, WKQX 101.1 radio personalities Tim Virgin and Lauren O'Neil, and others. Guests also enjoyed a wide variety of food options from eight local restaurants and browsed special promotions from businesses who sponsored the event.

As the sun went down, the party transitioned to a live music event featuring popular bands SaySoSix, Northside, and South of 80. In the midst of the celebration, NSYMCA CEO/President Howard Schultz offered special recognition to founding members Alta Thiel, Jim Otis, and Don Blaser. There was also a special 75th birthday salute for long-time Y board member Ron Bernardi of Sunset Foods. The evening was capped by a presentation of a generous donation of \$20,000 to the YMCA by Jason Young, Market Leader and Brian Halveland, Senior General Manager of Waterway Carwash.

"Giving back is important to us and the Y is important to our community," said Young from the stage at the event. "We are proud supporters and we hope this donation will inspire others to give to this great organization for their next 50 years."

Generations of families in Northbrook and the surrounding suburbs have relied on the YMCA for outstanding activities that support youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. A non-profit organization, the NSYMCA provides financial assistance through its Strong Kids Fund that enables individuals in financial need to participate fully in the Y's benefits. In addition to the community party, the Y is recognizing its anniversary with the launch of several new initiatives including Two Seconds Too Long, a drowning prevention education program for second graders; five Integrated Health Awareness programs, a Community Engagement Expansion Enterprise, and a major capital improvement project and campaign.

The YMCA thanks the many sponsors and restaurants who made 50Fest a success, including main event sponsors, Northwestern Medicine, Waterway Carwash, 22nd Century Media & Cumulus Radio: 101.1 WKQX-FM, 94.7 WLS-FM and 890 WLS-AM.

Additional sponsors include Align Wellness, AmpliVox Sound Systems, Bach 2 Rock, Bank Financial, Bath Fitter, Binny's Beverage Depot, Buffalo Wild Wings, By Your Side Autism Services, Championship Martial Arts, Chiro One, Christopher Laughlin School of Music, City Barbeque, Complete Chiropractic & Rehab, Covenant Village, Dairy Queen Northbrook, FGK Services, Gail's Brownies, Goldberg Orthodontics, Granite City Food & Brewery, Lowe's, McAlister's Deli, Northbrook Civic, Northwest Neurology, Pepoon Team Realty, Pinstripes, PNC Bank, Russian School of Mathematics, Stand Up Desk Store, Sunset Foods, Target, Teddie Kossof Salon & Spa, Tutor Doctor, and Viccino's Pizza. The Y also wants to thank all the volunteers specifically from Northbrook Rotary, Target and Northbrook Covenant Church.

"We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, volunteers, and hard-working staff who made 50Fest possible," notes Schultz. "Our Y has such deep roots in the community, and this was an outstanding way to celebrate that legacy and get started on our next 50 years."

About the [North Suburban YMCA](#)

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018/19, the North Suburban YMCA provides individuals in Northbrook and 15 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help them 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 [NSYMCA.org](#).



Photo 1: Live music was a main attraction at the North Suburban YMCA's 50Fest celebration on August 25.



Photo 2: Howard Schultz (center), CEO/President of the NSYMCA, with NSYMCA founding members Jim Otis(left) and Don Basler.



Photo 3: Kids enjoyed inflatable bounce houses and other activities at the all-ages 50Fest at the NSYMCA.