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**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YMCA Launches New Fund, Welcomes New Board Members at Annual Meeting**

**Northbrook, IL: October 2016** – Members and friends of the [North Suburban YMCA](http://www.nsymca.org) gathered on October 20 to look toward the future at its 2016 Annual Meeting. The community event featured the launch of a new fund to support youth athletics and leadership programs, named in honor of the mother of the Y's CEO, Howard Schultz. The meeting also welcomed newly-installed members to the Y's Board of Directors, honored long-time employees, and unveiled a new outdoor patio space with a Little Free Library book exchange.

Board members, Y staff, and a number of community leaders congratulated Howard Schultz on celebrating his tenth anniversary as NSYMCA CEO, a milestone that was observed with a video depicting the dramatic improvements made at the Y during his tenure. Past and present Board members credited Schultz with mobilizing the forces to take the Y from the brink of closure in 2006 to its current status as a healthy, renovated, and rejuvenated community center.

Phil Ruben, who served as Board chair at the time Schultz was hired, recounted the great turnaround achieved under Schultz's leadership. "I had no clue that Howard was the whirlwind he was," recalled Ruben. "We knew he was good, but in six months between Howard and our Board and others that were involved, we raised \$3.3 million and paid off all of our debt.... On behalf of the Northbrook community, I think he's done a phenomenal job."

In honor of Schultz's service, the Y announced the launch of the Ruth Schultz Bright Days Fund, an initiative to expand the benefits of youth sports, special needs, and leadership programs at the Y. Howard Schultz spoke of his late mother's lifelong involvement in team sports and volunteer activities, emphasizing the value of teaching the fun and skills of athletics to promote the Y's core values of healthy living and youth development. Donations to the Ruth Schultz Bright Days Fund will help equip youth with skills to actively make changes, overcome obstacles, and create new opportunities in their community.

The meeting also introduced new Board members to the community, including Dr. Promila Banerjee, Linda Epstein-Lenhoff, Kim Gruemmer, Jordan Schmidt, and Sandy Veith. Elected to three-year terms,

these new members join Board Chair Michael Redstone; Past Chair Jeff Knipp; Vice Chairs Ron Bernardi, Sal Manso, and Cathy Gregory; Treasurer Patricia Widmar; Secretary Chris Gochis; and continuing Board Members Peggy Reynolds, Bob Romo, Phil Kuhn, Lynne Brzezinski, Bill Schloss, Marv White, Carolyn Nyren, and Steven Elisco.

To donate to the Ruth Schultz Bright Days Fund, or for more information about the North Suburban YMCA, contact Adrienne Wright, Senior Director of Development, at [awright@nsymca.org](mailto:awright@nsymca.org).



*Photo 1 Caption: North Suburban YMCA staff and board members celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Howard Schultz (center) as CEO at the Y's 2016 Annual Meeting on October 20.*



*Photo 2 Caption: Howard Schultz (far right) addresses attendees at the North Suburban YMCA Annual Meeting on October 20.*

**About the [North Suburban YMCA](http://nsymca.org)**

The North Suburban YMCA serves 15 northern suburbs of Chicago, and for over 48 years has provided programs and services that address youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility every day. Working together for good is who we are: An association of people united in a common effort to help individuals become healthier, more connected, and confident. There is no other nonprofit quite like the Y: We have the national and local presence and partnerships to not just promise, but deliver, positive change, making sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. For more information, visit [nsymca.org](http://nsymca.org)

