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**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Suburban YMCA Announces New Location and Format for Annual Strong Kids Fundraiser

Northbrook, IL: October 2014 – Eight years ago, innovation and need combined to create the Ken and Alta Thiel Strong Kids Fundraising Dinner, one of the most successful and anticipated charity fundraising evenings in the north shore. To date the Strong Kids Dinner has raised over \$1,750,000. Feeling that innovative spirit calling out, the North Suburban YMCA leadership decided to change the format, date and location for this year's Ninth Annual Ken & Alta Thiel Strong Kids Fundraising event, which will be held at Pinstripes on February 26, 2015. The evening promises to be filled with new energy, excitement and fun, while maintaining the vital purpose of the event: supporting the Strong Kids Financial Assistance Fund and giving special recognition to outstanding community leaders. This year's event will honor Dr. Paul Pryma, principal of Glenbrook North High School, with the Thiel Award for Leadership and Social Responsibility.

The move to Pinstripes will have a relaxed and casual feel this year, where guests will enjoy a generous spread of delicious Pinstripes specialties and cocktails, a new electronic silent auction that will allow participants to bid from an outstanding selection of items from the convenience of their smartphones, a live auction, raffle, and three types of games to play each for bocce and bowling: complimentary recreational games, special jackpot and action contests for each sport, and competitive ladders for bocce and bowling for valuable prizes.

"We are looking forward to a fresh, fun event for the 2015 Strong Kids Fundraiser," said Sarah Leverenz, 2015 Strong Kids Chairperson. "Pinstripes provides the opportunity for so much fun that there will really be something for everyone to enjoy. We're also moving the event earlier in the year, so it will be a great mid-winter diversion. And of course, we hope to break last year's record of \$265,000 raised."

A highlight of the evening will be the recognition of Dr. Pryma with the annual Thiel Award, the North Suburban YMCA's cherished honor to community leaders. Pryma, who recently announced plans to retire after 10 years with District 225, has fostered a spirit of caring, commitment, and community involvement at the Northbrook school. He has partnered with the YMCA on events and commissions,

including an appearance as emcee at a Prom Fashion Show fundraiser for Strong Kids in April 2014. He also is a published author: his new book, *Coaches of Chicago: Inspiring Stories about Leadership and Life*, will be the focus of a book-signing event at The Book Bin, 1151 Cherry Lane in Northbrook, on November 3 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

“I'm thrilled to be associated with the North Suburban YMCA in Northbrook,” notes Pryma. “To be included in the same breath as the Thiels and their immense generosity toward the betterment of people is humbling. The Y consistently seeks to partner with GBN toward the health and progress of our children’s lives. I am grateful for that partnership and am proud to represent the Spartans of Glenbrook North in accepting this award.”

Last year’s Strong Kids Dinner raised over \$265,000, funds that the Y uses to make its classes, camps, and other programs accessible to families with difficult financial circumstances. Currently, one out of five members at the NSYMCA is able to engage in Y services because of support from the Strong Kids Fund.

Information on tickets for the 2015 Strong Kids Fundraiser is available on the NSYMCA website, www.nsymca.org. For information on donations or sponsorship opportunities, contact Barb Flanagin at bflanagin@nsymca.org or 847 272 7250.



Photo Caption: Dr. Paul Pryma, Glenbrook North High School Principal, hosted the North Suburban YMCA’s Prom Fashion Show in April. Dr. Pryma will be honored with the Y’s Thiel Award for Leadership and Social Responsibility at the Ninth Annual Strong Kids Fundraiser on February 26, 2015.

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, or visit www.nsymca.org.