



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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REGIONAL YMCA OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL DONNA RAGATZ MEMORIAL SWIM-A-THON ON JULY 7

BROOKFIELD, CT, June 15, 2009 – The Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut Mako Swim team is hosting the 3rd Annual Donna Ragatz Memorial Swim-a-Thon on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Camp Greenknoll, adjacent to the Greenknoll Branch in Brookfield. Ragatz, a college swimmer and swim team parent volunteer, sadly was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on January 4, 2007 at the age of 36. Members of the swim team are currently accepting pledges for this fundraising event. All proceeds will go to support the Regional YMCA's Pool Project.

“We are pleased to be honoring Donna. The Ragatz family has touched the hearts of us all at the Y and we are fortunate for their continued commitment to the YMCA,” said Greg Dembowski, Regional YMCA Development Director.” Swimming was always a huge part of Donna's life. Bill and Donna met while on the swim team at Iowa State University. They passed on their passion for swimming to their children, Jeffery, 10 and Ali, 8. Bill Ragatz currently serves as a volunteer coach of the Mako Swim Team and is a member of the Regional YMCA Board of Directors.

In November of 2004, the YMCA initiated a bold campaign to construct a 50-meter Olympic length pool and Aquatic Center at Camp Greenknoll. Construction began in October 2006 and the pool was opened in June 2007. Fundraising to enclose the pool for year round use is on-going. The previous 2 swim-a-thons raised nearly \$30,000. An awards presentation will be held at the conclusion of this event at 7:00 pm on the pool deck. Members of the community and the press are invited to attend.

For more information about the Swim-a-thon or to sponsor a swimmer, contact Greg Dembowski at 203.740.3432 x-201 or gdembowski@regionalmca.org.

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The Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut is a community service organization dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities through the development of spirit, mind and body.

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