



YMCA BUFFALO NIAGARA

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Ellicott-Masten YMCA Branch

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ELLICOTT-MASTEN YMCA ARCHIE L. HUNTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

(Buffalo, NY) -- The Ellicott-Masten YMCA recently held its Annual Archie L. Hunter Recognition Event. Several long time friends and donors to the Archie L. Hunter Committee helped present a workshop and run a track meet for over 110 children at the event, which ran from 9:30 am– 4:30 pm. Several of Archie's closest friends spoke about his passion for education and giving back to the community. Dr. Juanita Hunter presided over her husband's recognition event, which has been a long-standing summer tradition at the YMCA.



The event helps create awareness about the committee's goal of raising scholarship funds for youth to attend YMCA summer camp. Mr. Hunter and the committee have supported the YMCA over the years through scholarship funds for youth and the establishment of a computer education center at the YMCA. Matt Hilton, executive director for the Ellicott-Masten Branch, made a point during the event to dramatize the impact of the scholarships for the children. This summer nine out of ten children are able to attend camp because they receive a scholarship from the Hunter Committee and the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign. Mr. Hilton stated that over 92% of the campers receive scholarships from the Hunter Committee and the YMCA Strong Kids Funds.



The event included workshops on honesty, responsibility, respect, and caring, a track meet and a special clay sculpture workshop. The clay sculpture workshop was new this year and was run by long time Archie Hunter Committee member Barbara Rickard. At the entrance of the YMCA's athletic field and walking track is a bust of Archie Hunter that was sculpted by Ms. Rickard. The children were taught how to form clay faces and each child went home with their own art work.

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All campers that day received a participation ribbon for first, second, and third place winners of the track events getting first place medals. Children ages 3 – 13 participated in the events which were run by the volunteers from the Archie L Hunter Committee along with YMCA staff.

“The event was well attended and the speakers did a great job of conveying what Archie Hunter stood for. We rely on groups of caring individuals such as this to make summer camp a reality for many youth in the area,” said Matt Hilton.

Mr. Hilton is a past recipient of YMCA scholarship funds and believes every child should be afforded the chance to participate in YMCA programs regardless of their ability to pay the full amount. Mr. Hilton also said that they will give out close to \$60,000 of scholarship funds for summer programming, which are raised through the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body. As a dynamic, charitable, community-based organization led by volunteers, YMCA Buffalo Niagara has been able to assist tens of thousands of youth, families, and senior citizens so that they can take part in YMCA membership programs.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara serves more than 100,000 people annually through its association of seven branches across Western New York and YMCA Resident Camp Weona. For more information on all of the programs the YMCA has to offer and our financial assistance program, please contact your local YMCA branch or visit us online at www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org.

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