



William H. Hannon Foundation Purchases Athletic Equipment & New Climbing Wall for Westchester Family YMCA's Y-University Program

March, 2003: Los Angeles, California

The youth of the Westchester Family YMCA are now “spiking, dunking and climbing” to new heights thanks to a generous gift from the William H. Hannon Foundation.

The \$15,000 gift has not only helped to purchase new volleyball equipment, but it will also be used to purchase new basketball equipment and to erect a rock-climbing wall at the Westchester facility. This new equipment will benefit the students of one of the Westchester Family YMCA's newest and fastest-growing programs, Y-University.

“Westchester was where my uncle got his start and put down his roots. He valued the work of the Westchester Family YMCA in building a stronger community, and this donation carries on his legacy,” said Kathy Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation.

The Y-University program serves

Westchester Family YMCA family members in grades 6-8. The program promotes leadership and character development through a variety of activities such as community service, group building games/sports, and mentoring.



Westchester Family YMCA volleyball players with William H. Hannon Foundation board members, from left to right: Kathleen H. Aikenhead, James A. Hannon, and David A. Herbst

“We are so grateful to the William H. Hannon Foundation for its generous gift to the Westchester Family YMCA,” said Executive Director Patricia de Felice. “This new equipment will open new opportunities for our students. It will give our teens an opportunity to focus their energy on team building and leadership activities in a safe supervised environment.”

Y-University runs parallel to the LAUSD school year and was developed to give young teens in the community a constructive outlet after school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. With adult supervision, these students are given a quiet place to do homework, participate in teen fitness programs like cycling, swimming, and organized sports, as well as attend educational field trips. The program is supervised by the YMCA’s Teen Director, four part-time Youth Counselors and several volunteers. These individuals provide support and guidance to the members of Y-University and work as mentors to the students.

The Westchester Family YMCA is located at 8015 South Sepulveda Boulevard in Westchester. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the service of the community through programs that enrich the quality of life spiritually, mentally, physically and socially for youth, families and seniors. The Westchester Family YMCA offers a broad range of programs including youth leadership, after school care, informational seminars, team sports, fitness classes, camp programs and much more. For more information on the Westchester YMCA, please call (310) 670-4316.



William H. Hannon Foundation board member David A. Herbst straps on the climbing gear at the inauguration of the new climbing wall