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West Cook YMCA Names Rev. Donald Register, Mary Jo Schuler, Ph.D., Capital Campaign Co-Chairpersons For New State-of-the-Art Facility to be Built in Forest Park

OAK PARK, IL.—October 16, 2008—Two long-time Oak Park residents have been named co-chairpersons of the West Cook YMCA's capital campaign to build a new state-of-the-art facility in Forest Park that will serve 10 West suburban communities.

Rev. Donald B. Register, the retired pastor of the Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church, Chicago, who organized Presbyterian and United Churches of Christ in Oak Park and Austin into a cluster for joint ministry and **Mary Jo Schuler, Ph.D.**, a former higher education administrator recognized for her leadership in helping collegians set educational and life goals, will lead the West Cook YMCA's "Unite Together" capital campaign, now in formation.

Their goal is to secure funds from individuals, corporations and foundations for the new Y planned for a 7.8 acre site in Forest Park at Van Buren Street south of Madison Street adjacent to the Altenheim Home, a residential community for seniors.

The new YMCA will replace the Y's 53-year-old building at 255 South Marion Street, Oak Park. It will serve residents of Forest Park, Oak Park, River Forest as well as persons who live in Bellwood, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, River Grove and Stone Park.

"When open, this new facility will be one of the newest YMCAs in the Midwest. We'll have first rate indoor and outdoor facilities to serve youth, adults, families and seniors," said James Lencioni, chairman of the West Cook YMCA board of directors.

"Both Don and Mary Jo are wonderful advocates for the mission and principles of the YMCA. They share a passion for the Y's goal of helping to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities," Lencioni said.

"As someone who has deep roots in the YMCA movement over many years, I appreciate its foundation on Judeo-Christian principles and commitment to the development of spirit, mind and body of all people regardless of age, gender, creed or ability to pay," said Rev. Register.

Dr. Schuler said, "I'm honored to have an opportunity to join Rev. Register to play a role in creating this new Y, for beyond the traditional health, wellness, sports and fitness programs, this new facility will also focus on such core values as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility."

Register, 71, is the immediate past chairman of the West Cook YMCA board of directors. A lifelong athlete, Rev. Register ran track and played football at the College of Wooster (Ohio) where he earned a bachelor of arts degree with a political science major in 1959.

A 37-year resident of Oak Park, Rev. Register grew up in Akron. During his high school years, he participated in Hi Y leadership programs and earned some of his college expenses by working at the Wooster YMCA. He learned to play handball at the St. Louis Southside YMCA and later served on the board of directors of the city's Downtown YMCA.

Rev. Register earned a master of divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1963. After ordination he served as a post-graduate urban intern at Berea Presbyterian Church, St. Louis and later became the director of an interdenominational ministry team that worked with the city's public housing residents. He served the Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church from 1988 to 2005. Two years later he was named moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago, the governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which oversees the work of 105 congregations, higher education institutions and engages in ecumenical ministry and dialogue with other religious organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area.

An activist for peace and justice, Rev. Register participated in the 1964 voter registration drive in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He and eight other ministers successfully added 300 black residents to the voter register rolls. While in St. Louis he helped create a community organization that built apartments and rehabilitated substandard housing while providing job training for area residents. In Chicago, he serves as treasurer of the Technical Assistance Corporation for Housing.

Long active in Oak Park, Rev. Register is a past president of the Oak Park River Forest High School Booster Club and served as a volunteer track and field official at the school. His wife, Dolores, is a retired educator who was the first director of the multicultural education department of Oak Park Elementary School District 97. The Register's three sons, John, 43, Christopher, 41, and Mark, 36, are all graduates of Oak Park River Forest High School.

Rev. Register's son, John, a U.S. Army veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, set the American long jump record in 2000 as a member of the USA Paralympic track and field team in Sydney Australia.

Dr. Schuler, 46, is the eldest of nine children who grew up in south Oak Park. Her lifelong interest in athletics was formed on the courts and fields of the Park District, Oak Park River Forest High School and at the Marion Street YMCA. In 1985, she earned a bachelor of arts in psychology from Kent State University while on a four-year field hockey scholarship. She received a master of science degree in education from Southern Illinois University in 1991 where as a graduate assistant she focused on college student development. In 1995, she earned a doctorate in higher education administration degree from Saint Louis University where she served as a community development coordinator in the Department of Housing.

Dr. Schuler spent eight years at Triton College serving in various roles including as assistant dean of students and later interim dean of students where she helped multicultural and first generation college students set educational and life goals. While at Triton, she was also recognized for her ability to develop model programs ensuring student retention and academic success.

In 1999, Dr. Schuler joined her husband, Stephen, and his partner, Daniel Tierney, in launching GETCO, a global technology trading firm that provides liquidity to the electronic financial markets across the world. In 2006, she and Stephen founded the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation to reflect their commitment to hard work, faith, family and a mutual desire to inspire youth.

Dr. Schuler is also the founder and president of Final Finish Properties, Inc., a project and property development firm. One of the firm's projects is Martin's Point in Outer Banks, North Carolina. Locally, she is the joint owner of the Marion Street Cheese Market.

An active amateur athlete, Dr. Schuler was named volunteer of the year in 2007 by the Chicago District Tennis Association. Currently she is vice president of the West Suburban Tennis Patrons, a board member of the Chicago Tennis Patrons and a former member of the Oak Park Tennis Center board. She has also been an active volunteer with Aspire Children's Services, the Cook County Women's Commission and Ascension Catholic Church Women's Board where she served as president.

Dr. Schuler and her husband are the parents of Andrea, age 9 and Ryan, age 7.

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