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GARY WOLFF RECOGNIZED AS THE 2017 ROBERT C. KNOX JR. YMCA DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT

Gary Wolff, of Woodstock, Connecticut, received the 2017 Robert C. Knox Jr. YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award at the YMCA of Greater Hartford's 165th Annual Meeting on April 17, 2018. The award was presented by the 2013 Robert C. Knox Jr. Award recipient, JoAnn Price, who is the co-founder and managing partner of Fairview Capital Partners and Vice Chair on the YMCA of Greater Hartford Board of Directors.

This award honors the memory of the late Robert C. Knox Jr., a Hartford insurance executive who was a key volunteer leader and contributor to our YMCA in the 1960s and 1970s. It is the highest tribute our YMCA pays to its volunteer leaders, and it honors those who exemplify the ideals of our YMCA with their faithful dedication to preserving the responsibilities and opportunities our Y has to offer.

Gary Wolff, a lifelong Hartford YMCA participant, exemplifies the very best of our community, and truly embodies the values that RC Knox winners should have. Wolff grew up going to the Hartford YMCA to swim, and made sure that his children, Jonathan and Kristina, got the same wonderful experience at the Indian Valley Family YMCA. Now, he and his wife, Eileen, live in Woodstock and enjoy swimming and exercising at the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center.

Wolff's participation in our Y community is what makes him so special. In 2010 he was awarded the Indian Valley Community Leader of the Year award due to his contributions to that facility. Wolff is president of Wolff Wealth Advisors, and works with small business owners every day. Much like the award's namesake, Robert C. Knox Jr., who was an insurance executive, Wolff uses his intelligence and knowledge to help those in the community. And it is Wolff's business and fiscal acumen that make him so valuable as a member of our YMCA Board of Directors who serves as chair of the Endowment Development Committee and Finance Committee. He also uses his skills as co-chair of the Indian Valley Family YMCA's capital campaign, where he is an exceptionally successful fundraiser.

Wolff's hard work for our Y is inspired by his own learning struggles due to dyslexia as a child. That is why he has worked so hard to fundraise for programs like the Y-BELL Power Scholars Academy, which prevents summer learning loss for children in Hartford and East Hartford.

Of his commitment to the Y, Wolff said, "I am so honored to receive this award, and to be able to contribute to helping our Y community. At the YMCA of Greater Hartford, we provide millions of dollars in financial assistance to make our programs and services affordable. I love watching children work all summer so that they are prepared for school in the fall; I am proud to see older adults participate in our Silver Sneakers program; and I am emboldened to see the positive impact of exercise on the lives of cancer survivors in our LIVESTRONG program. I believe that you get more than you give when you know you made an impact on someone's life, and I know that when others succeed, it helps us all."

YMCA of Greater Hartford President and CEO Harold Sparrow said, "Gary's commitment to our Board and to the greater Y community is unparalleled. He dedicates his time to serving on several committees, but it is his passion that separates him from the pack. The good he has done has benefited so many lives in the 52 town and communities we serve, and I am thrilled to see his dedication being honored."

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The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization established in 1852 and is one of the nation's oldest YMCA's. The YMCA of Greater Hartford builds strong communities by helping individuals reach their fullest potential through transformative programs that promote Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. In 2017 the YMCA of Greater Hartford served more than 108,000 children, adults and families, in 52 towns and cities throughout the Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland and Windham counties. YMCA programs put the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into practice to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all participants. Ghymca.org