

Kresge Foundation gives Y \$750G challenge grant

Summer groundbreaking planned at Leggs Hill

The Kresge Foundation has approved a challenge grant of \$750,000 to the Marblehead-Swampscott YMCA for construction of the new facility at Leggs Hill, according to Paul Gorman, the Y's executive director.

The Troy, Mich.-based Kresge Foundation, an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge, awards grants on a challenge basis, requiring that the recipient raises the balance of funding needed within a deadline.

"A capital campaign offers a strategic opportunity for an organization to connect its stakeholders and reach out to new donors, volunteers, participants and the general community," said John E. Marshall III, president and CEO of \$3-billion Kresge Foundation in its confirmation letter to the YMCA. "[The YMCA] presented a compelling strategy to use a Kresge challenge grant to help leverage support from new donors and to solicit higher levels of giving from past contributors."

To date, the Marblehead-Swampscott YMCA's "Y it's Time" Capital Campaign Committee has raised \$7.6 million to construct a new, full-service building on Leggs Hill Road, reported Gorman. To meet The Kresge Foundation's challenge,

an additional \$1.7 million needs to be generated within the next year to qualify for the grant.

"The Kresge Foundation's grant approval serves as a significant validation of our fund-raising plan and the sustainability of our project," said Dr. William P. Adams, Capital Campaign co-chairman. "Given the strong campaign support already demonstrated by Marblehead and Swampscott residents, we are very confident that we'll meet the goal established by the foundation."

In the fall of 2003, the Y purchased 19.5 acres of land off of Leggs Hill Road, ending the search for a suitable parcel to construct a substantially larger building to replace the North Shore's smallest YMCA, which opened in 1910. The new Y will serve all age groups with the most contemporary facilities and equipment.

Current plans call for an indoor, eight-lane, 25-yard collegiate pool; a warm-water teaching pool; a high-school-sized gymnasium; a state-of-the-art gymnastics center; a complete fitness center; an education center composed of distinct areas for early childhood education, school-age children and a teen center; four squash courts; separate locker rooms for men, boys,

women, girls and families; and rooms for community use and administrative offices. Additionally, through a partnership with the Boston Ballet, four dance studios will be constructed. A 250-car parking lot will assure space for the Y membership.

"We have hired a builder, we're in the middle of the approval process with the planning boards in Salem and Marblehead, and we expect to break ground this summer," said Gorman. "We're moving full steam ahead."

"A number of our benefactors have indicated that the Kresge Foundation's project affirmation has reinforced their commitment to the campaign and motivated them to increase their pledges," added Adams, who along with his wife, Carol, and Peter and Carolyn Lynch, and Eyk and Rose-Marie Van Otterloo, serve as Capital Campaign co-chairmen.

"Nonetheless, we have intensified our inquiries to individuals within our two communities who have not yet contributed. We are counting on Marblehead and Swampscott families to help us reach our goal so that residents can benefit from the value and services provided by a modern Y for years to come," Adams said.