



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rotary Club of St. John's announces its generous donation to help build new Y and name the Rotary Child and Family Development Centre.**

**St. John's, NL (September 9, 2011, 10:00 am)** – The Rotary Club of St. John's is one of the three local Rotary Clubs that each have contributed \$50,000 toward the construction of the new Ches Penney Family Y. The Rotary Club of St. John's, the Rotary Club of St. John's East and St. John's Northwest Rotary Club have come together to become the \$150,000 naming donor for the new Rotary Child and Family Development Centre operating out of the new Y. The 60 space licensed child care centre serves families with infants to school-age children in need of quality, affordable child care. Additional family and child development programming is in the planning stages and will strive to meet the needs of families throughout the region. The St. John's Rotary Club believes strongly in giving back to its communities and putting service above self. "We are proud to support the construction of the Ches Penney Family Y and applaud the Y's efforts to strengthen its contribution to the healthy development of people throughout the Northeast Avalon" said Tony Young Past President for the Club, who made the presentation with Glenn Barnes, current President. In making the donation the Rotary Club of St. John's has helped build a fully accessible, environmentally sustainable facility to serve people of all ages, abilities and incomes.

Ray Smallwood, Rotarian and Volunteer Corporate Campaign Chair for the Y Strong Families Campaign to build the new Y, expressed his gratitude to the Club for the generous donation. "We are so pleased to have help from the Rotary Club of St. John's. Their support will help make Y programs in health, employment, and child care even more accessible and improve the future of communities and families throughout the Northeast Avalon. The generosity of our donors has helped fulfill our dream of a fully accessible family centre to positively transform lives."

The YMCA–YWCA of Northeast Avalon is a multi-service charity serving communities for over 150 years. Programs are offered at 25 locations throughout the Northeast Avalon. The new Y began construction at the corner of Ridge Road and Higgins Line in 2009, and the campaign now nearing completion, has been underway since 2007. The 50,000 sq. ft. building, surrounded by trails and forest, has a commanding view of the city and the Atlantic Ocean and utilizes geo-thermal energy for heating and cooling. It opened on July 23, 2011 and features include: an aquatics centre, five change rooms, gymnasium, indoor track, courts, strength and conditioning centre, fitness studio, administrative offices, multi-purpose space, a 60 space licensed child care centre, café, and an employment and enterprise centre.

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**YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon**

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