

December 6, 2011



December has started, the New Year looms, everyone is planning their holiday shopping, travels, parties and activities. It is such a busy time for everyone yet we should all stop and think of all the gifts that we already have that aren't bought at the store. One of the great things about the community of Auburn is the people who care about others and help those less fortunate. Here at the Auburn and Skaneateles YMCAs we are able to do a lot because of the generosity of those who make a financial commitment to our annual support campaign. This in turn allows us to scholarship those who are unable to pay for an annual membership or for a specific program. Through our scholarship program, we support our mission by making memberships affordable for all. Many people forget that the YMCA is a charity and we are supported in large part through the generous donations that people make to our organization. As we give this holiday season, please remember that giving to the YMCA is giving to others.

In giving, we must not forget to thank the true generosity of some YMCA supporters. The Near Family Foundation recently gave the Auburn YMCA a generous donation to help impact our community through the Swim Free Program, Y-Pals, Camp Y-Owasco and our preschool programs. This helps us to bring quality services to all members of the community. We are also grateful to First Niagara for their recent donation to the aquatics department which will go towards swim lessons and swim team scholarships as well as equipment for our aquatics programs. And even though we have acknowledged them before, we are very thankful for the grant that we received from the French and Metcalf Foundation which helped us to purchase the new Cybex strength circuit. All of these local organizations continuously support us through the years because they believe in our mission and what we do for the community.

Here is a wonderful idea for youth and adults to enjoy the winter weather and keep active at the same time. The Skaneateles YMCA is running a **Learn to Skate** camp during the December school break. The camp will run December 26, 27, 29 and 30 with meeting times for 1st time skaters from 11:15am-11:45, beginners 11:45am-12:15pm and experienced skaters from 12:15-12:45pm. The cost is \$50 for members and \$70 for the general public. This could be a great Christmas stocking stuffer for someone so put this on your Christmas shopping list!



And don't forget...a wonderful, exciting, unique Christmas gift could be your **gift certificate** for a wife, significant other (female), girlfriend, mother, sister or daughter for **Amy and Mena's Pajama Party**, on February 3 starting at 6:30 at the Holiday Inn. Anyone who went last year can tell you how much fun they had and like wine, this will only get better with age!

The **Stingrays** swim team is off to another stellar year. Their first big meet will be this Saturday at home where all of the swimmers will be able to show off their skills. These swimmers work hard throughout the season with the culmination being a trip to states and possibly nationals. If you are interested in competitive season, this is a great opportunity to come down and see young people giving their all in their sport. Coach Dan Walter along with his other coaches, makes sure that all of his swimmers practice in order to achieve their personal best. Best wishes to all of them and one more reason for all of us to be proud of all the programs that YMCA has to offer!