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Westport Weston Family Y · 59 Post Road East · PO Box 190 · Westport CT 06881-0190

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For Release:      Immediate

**Following a Nationwide Search,  
The Family Y Names a New CEO.**

**Westport CT, March 23, 2006** – On April 17, Helene Weir will join the Westport Weston Family Y as Chief Executive Officer.

Family Y board member Lee Stacey, chair of the seven-member CEO Search Committee composed of staff and board members, says Ms. Weir's appointment is the culmination of a nationwide search conducted over a period of several months. "We had an enormous response when the position was posted, with more than 100 individuals, from YMCAs around the country as well as people outside the Y community, submitting their credentials and capabilities for consideration."

With the guidance of consultants from the YMCA of the USA, the Search Committee selected five candidates. "In the end," Mr. Stacey notes, "Helene offered the combination of expertise and enthusiasm best-suited to the Westport Weston Family Y. The Search Committee was unanimous in recommending Ms. Weir to the Board." The Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the recommendation and the Trustees endorsed her appointment.

A seasoned YMCA professional with more than 22 years of front-line experience in the organization, Ms. Weir most recently served as Senior Vice President of Operations at Valley of the Sun YMCA in Phoenix AZ. While there, she had oversight responsibility for seven branches with a combined budget of \$14 million and supervised the Vice Presidents of Marketing and Membership Development and of Program Development.

Ms. Weir's professional accomplishments are notable and include a successful capital campaign for and renovation of the 36-year-old Chris-Town YMCA plus financial turnaround of that organization from an annual deficit to the largest surplus in the Association; supervision of a seven-branch annual campaign resulting in the largest percentage of members contributing in the Association; staff leadership on the Valley of the Sun Y Board Strategic Planning Committee for

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development of the five-year strategic plan. And during Ms. Weir's tenure, Valley of the Sun YMCA realized increased revenue, membership growth and improved retention rates.

Ms. Weir is a native of Canada but has called the United States home since assuming the position of Vice President, Executive Director at Valley of the Sun YMCA in 2000. She has a demonstrated ability for strategic planning, fiscal management and development of community, volunteers and staff as a result of experience gained at Valley of the Sun Y and while serving as YMCA of Calgary General Manager and as Director of "Shape Up Alberta" at the YMCA of Edmonton. Her professional instincts have been enhanced by her involvement with the Kuala Lumpur YMCA as well as her participation in YMCA World Urban Network Leadership Training in Auckland.

The challenges and opportunities which face the Westport Weston Family Y, including the proposed move to Mahackeno, attracted Helene to this position. "The Family Y is an organization which has served the people of Westport, Weston and surrounding areas with distinction for more than eight decades. There is history and a heritage that I respect."

Beyond that is the requirement to lead the organization in realizing its plans for Mahackeno. "Reaching out to the community, the permitting process, capital fundraising, building and site plans, etcetera. This is an enormously complex initiative and an incredible responsibility but I know we are working to provide a brand new, state-of-the-art community facility featuring improved accessibility, expanded programming space and an enhanced service offering. I am thoroughly energized about the prospect."

Though looking ahead, Helene declares the Family Y will not lose sight of today's priorities. "In our current location we must continue to deliver programming, activities and services to ensure a satisfying experience for all members and, indeed, everyone who comes through our doors."

Announcing the appointment of the new CEO, Family Y Board President Rosemary Halstead says Helene Weir is the right person to lead the organization at this pivotal time. "We are a going concern that is in transition. Helene has the ability to address issues in the present and shape plans for the future. Under her leadership, we can anticipate implementation of significant initiatives, from strategies designed to increase membership to efforts which will facilitate our move to Mahackeno."

"Throughout my career, I have practiced and promoted the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, values which define each YMCA." With that statement, Helene Weir offers insight into the vision which will inform her leadership.

But she emphasizes this is but one facet of her approach. "The culture and personality of each YMCA also is defined by the community in which it is located. And it is important to have a full

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understanding and appreciation of those distinctive features and characteristics.” Observing that she will have “the support and counsel of a dedicated staff that has been working diligently for the past nine months to maintain the caliber of programs and services expected by the membership plus a cadre of volunteers fully engaged in discharging their responsibilities on behalf of the Family Y,” Helene plans to focus first on familiarizing herself with the people and particulars of Westport, Weston and surrounding area.

“It is a privilege to be appointed as the eighth CEO of the Westport Weston Family Y.” Recognizing that her success will be measured by the success of the organization Helene says “I hope members of the community will share with me their thoughts so that my staff and I can be assured of advancing the Family Y in a manner which meets the needs and expectations of those we are dedicated to serve.”

Remarking that appointment of the new CEO is a milestone event for the Family Y, Rosemary Halstead echoes Ms. Weir’s sentiments, adding “Helene’s positive influence and practical contributions will extend far beyond the walls of the Family Y, benefiting the community at large. In a very real sense, Helene will be working on behalf of us all so we encourage the community to reach out to her with a warm and gracious welcome.”

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### **Westport Weston Family Y**

The Westport Weston Family Y is an affiliate of the YMCA of the USA and a partner agency of the United Way of Westport and Weston. Our mission is to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. The Westport Weston Family Y is governed by two boards comprised of 40 community volunteers. Visit [www.westporty.org](http://www.westporty.org) for additional information about the organization and programs.