

## Indian River County

# GYAC launches \$5M Dreamweaver's Campaign at Snow Ball

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The Gifford Youth Achievement Center gave more than a party when its Snow Ball transformed Oak Harbor into a winter wonderland on Jan. 26.

The event was a celebration of how far the center has come since it opened 20 years ago and also was a night to show just how much the facility is still growing.

Although guests enjoyed sparkling champagne, high energy music by Ladies of Soul and stunning winter-themed décor, the mission of Gifford Youth Achievement Center was first and foremost in everyone's hearts.

There are about 60 children on a wait list who are desperate to find space at the center each term. Many parents know the after-school programs it offers are the difference between their child's success or failure during the school year and future graduation.

To answer this urgent need, the center's Board of Directors made the decision to expand its facilities to include a new building, which will have eight more multi-use classrooms including a computer lab.

To fund the new classroom building, GYAC Executive Director Angelia Perry told the gala's gathered supporters about a capital campaign which had been quietly securing early leadership gifts over the past year. Already, private donors had raised more than \$4.5 million, including two \$1 million gifts, that enabled GYAC to immediately begin construction.

Perry announced the campaign was entering its a new Public Phase that will engage the entire community to raise the balance of funds needed to complete construction costs; pay for the operating expenses to expand the program for the next three years and to secure endowment funds that will help to sustain the operating costs of the program and building for the longer term. This phase would be the most vital to keep GYAC's doors open and its future secure.

Perry announced Honorary Chair of



**Chris Peterson, left, Scott and Gail Alexander and Carole Russell at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center's Snow Ball on Jan. 26. More photos on TCPalm.com.**

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**Margaret and George Ingram.**

the Capital Campaign would be Scott Alexander, president of Northern Trust Bank and longtime board member and supporter of the organization.

"Tonight, I am proud to officially announce the Gifford Youth Achievement Center Dreamweaver's Campaign," said Alexander. "We have set a \$5 million goal to support the cost of construction, furnishings, new technology, expanded staffing and operating expenses to deliver the programs within the new facility."

Alexander said they also would be seeking \$2 million to increase its endowment and praised the two anonymous million-dollar donors.



**David and Barbara McKenna, left, with Carol and Dick Koppel.**

"These are the largest single gifts ever given to GYAC since our initial founding," said Alexander. "It's true what they say ... great things happen inside the doors of GYAC and it is wonderful that so many philanthropists are recognizing the credibility of our work."

Members of the Campaign Leadership team included Adam Bolinger, Roz Cline, Todd Fennell, Bill Glavin, Lisa Holmes, Barry Reardon, Norm Rickard, Joan Woodhouse, as well as staff members Perry, Freddie Woolfork and Peggy Gibbs.

The Dreamweaver's Campaign co-chairs will be GYAC Board Member Lisa Holmes; 2018's National Philanthropy



**Suzanne Bolinger, left, with GYAC Board President Adam Bolinger, Marcia Littlejohn and Karl Zimmermann.**



**Barry Reardon and Gifford Youth Achievement Center Executive Director Angelia Perry.**



**Betty and Dale Jacobs.**

Day Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Trudie Rainone; and community leader Mary McKinney, who is leading the Gifford community's involvement in the campaign. McKinney and her committee are already about half-way toward a \$25,000 goal supported entirely by Gifford residents.

The building expansion construction will be complete by April 26, when there will be a grand ribbon cutting, which is open to everyone.

For more information, visit [www.GYAC.net](http://www.GYAC.net) or call 772-794-1005.