

# SO MUCH MORE

## Bob Ruecker

### **Honoring the Legacy of Bob Ruecker**

The YMCA is sustained by individuals and families who understand that strong communities require ongoing care, investment, and shared responsibility. Through their generosity, we are able to continue growing programs, maintaining safe spaces, and ensuring that all who walk through our doors have the opportunity to belong, learn, and thrive.

In honor of Bob, whose life reflected a deep appreciation for the impact of the YMCA, a gift has been established to support programming across our association. These contributions help provide essential resources; from health and wellness equipment to aquatics safety supplies and program supplies, to Camp Bishop program supplies, youth sports equipment and more. All ensuring that our programs remain accessible, high-quality, and impactful for generations to come.

Bob understood that sustaining the YMCA requires both participation and stewardship. Through this legacy of giving, their commitment to supporting the organization as a whole will continue to strengthen programs and expand opportunities for all we serve.

### **In Loving Memory of Bob Ruecker, from Bob Ruecker's Wife and Daughters**

Our family's connection to the YMCA began early and has remained a meaningful part of all of our lives over the years. From a young age, and as parents, we were involved in programs that helped shape who we are today.

Our daughters began swim lessons at the YMCA as infants and continued through their elementary years. The Y was a place where they learned important life skills, built confidence, and felt part of something larger than themselves. They also participated in gymnastics and other activities that brought encouragement, structure, and joy into their childhood, while Patty experienced the Y as a place that supported and strengthened our family.

Some of our most cherished memories come from summers spent at Camp Bishop. We remember singing songs, performing skits, attempting to water ski, and jumping into the lake on warm days, especially after reading letters from home. Camp was a place of laughter, growth, and connection that left a lasting impression on all of us.

Our connection extended well beyond participation. In the early 1990s, one of our daughters had the opportunity to serve on the Camp Bishop staff, and as a family, we often visited during the off-season to help with cleanup and care. Those experiences instilled in us a deep appreciation for giving back and caring for places that hold meaning for so many. That legacy has continued into the next generation—her children have been actively involved in their local YMCAs in Wenatchee and Spokane Valley, where they first attended overnight camp and now serve as counselors themselves, carrying that spirit of service forward.

Bob was also deeply involved in the YMCA in Aberdeen, serving on the board and supporting its mission in meaningful ways. He valued the role the Y plays in strengthening community and ensuring access for all. Patty and Bob also participated in YMCA-organized white water rafting trips on the Deschutes River. These experiences were incredibly special and brought people together in a unique and lasting way.

Because of these lifelong connections, our family wanted to give in a way that supports the YMCA as a whole. This gift is meant to help sustain and strengthen the programs that meant so much to us, ensuring that others can have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and create lasting memories.

It is our hope that this support will continue to carry forward the spirit of the YMCA: a place where families are built, skills are learned, and community is strengthened every day.

