

Brownells announce \$100k aquatic center gift – and issue a challenge

Members of the Brownell Family have announced a gift of \$100,000 for the new Family Aquatic Center to be built in Grinnell. They have also issued a challenge to match the next \$15,000 given by Dec. 31 towards the new aquatic center. Pete Brownell and Helen Redmond began with a \$50,000 personal pledge, which Frank Brownell matched with a \$50,000 pledge from the Brownell Family Foundation. “We

want to help by increasing the quality of life throughout Poweshiek County and surrounding areas for our families, friends, neighbors and crew,” said Frank Brownell, chairman. “This will certainly be a popular place for everyone in this area,” Brownells President Pete Brownell said. “We hope our involvement will help make people in neighboring communities more aware of what a great resource the aquatic center will

be for them and their families.”

Brownells has been a world leader in gunsmithing tools, gun parts and service to the firearms industry for nearly 70 years. Pete Brownell added that their firm was influenced by how the aquatic center will “enhance the area where our employees live and work. Our employees are our most important asset. That’s why this partnership with the aquatic center is important to us, because it will directly benefit our employees and their families.”

Campaign Co-Chairs Delphina Baumann and Wendy Ramsey described their reaction as “overjoyed.” “The Brownell family has been generous and we have an additional opportunity to double part of their gift,” Baumann said. “Brownells has set a wonderful example that challenges the rest of us to finish the task.”

The City of Grinnell is paying basic construction costs for a new municipal pool, with construction scheduled to begin in 2009. A “SPLASH!” campaign has been underway to secure private donations for funding the equipment and amenities needed to upgrade

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the new pool into a fully-outfitted aquatic center. The overall project is expected to cost \$5 million to \$6 million, depending upon available funds.

In addition to slides, zero depth entry and water sprays, the aquatic center will include ten 25-meter lap lanes available during open swim hours. A larger deck will offer better space for families, parents and spectators. A new concession stand will provide lots of seating and a large shelter. Shaded areas with tables and benches are an added benefit.

Another feature will be the Lazy River which is typically used for a lazy tube ride around a “river” of flowing water. Adults and youth can walk or swim against the current for exercise, or just a change in routine.

Co-chair Ramsey described the “SPLASH!” campaign as “in the home stretch,” saying that contributions are critical right now because certain features can only be included if the funding allows.

“We have been so inspired by the support this project has received from individuals, families, businesses and foundations. If others want to see all the envisioned features kept in the plans, we need donors from throughout Poweshiek County to make it happen,” Ramsey said.

More information about the aquatic center and its features is available at the **SPLASH** website www.grinnelliowa.gov/splash. Donors are asked to make their gifts payable to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, indicating “Aquatic Center Fund” on the memo line. Pledges may be fulfilled over time and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Checks or pledges can be mailed to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, PO Box 344, Grinnell, Iowa, 50112.
