

YMCA making final push for funds

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PHOENIXVILLE — The deadline is quickly approaching for Phoenixville-area residents to help the Daniel J. Detwiler Phoenixville branch of the Freedom Valley YMCA reach its goal of raising \$8,800 for its summer camp scholarship programs.

The YMCA has partnered with *The Phoenix* to help raise money for local kids' camp scholarships. *The Phoenix* has helped facilitate a matching donation for up to \$8,800. As of Friday, the YMCA had raised \$7,750, but still has the opportunity to secure over \$1,000 more in matching funds with your help.

"This is a very unique opportunity, both for the YMCA and for the Phoenixville community as a whole," said Alexander Gould, general manager of Phoenixville Newspapers. "We, as a local business inter-

ested in the future of Phoenixville, would love to be able

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make a full matching gift."

The summer camp programs provide 10 weeks of great activities for local kids and the YMCA would like to be able to provide an even better camp experience over the summer months with the help of area contributors.

"The camp program has really become a big cross section of kids," said Jon Agnew, executive director of the Phoenixville YMCA branch. "The majority of campers really are kids with mom and dad both at work, so the camps have become more of a necessity than it was 20 years ago. We have an average of 550 kids a day, and the majority out those come out of necessity. Parents need somewhere safe for their kids to go, and we can not only provide that safe environment, but we can provide an educational experience, helping kids learn as well."

To donate to the YMCA's efforts to provide more summer camp scholarships, call Agnew at 610-933-5866. For more information on financial assistance for the YMCA summer camps, call Donna Burns, Director of Membership Services, at the same telephone number.

