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## Full Speech – Mark Irwin

The Social Responsibility Champion is bestowed upon an individual who has made significant contributions in working toward outcomes such as:

- Giving, and helping others to give their time, talent and treasure in support of community needs.
- Helping to assure that diverse, underserved and isolated communities feel supported by Ys.
- Advocating for, and supporting, policies, laws, and regulations that strengthen the wellbeing of communities.
- And, modeling the principles of diversity and inclusion in his/her work with the Y and larger community.

I am pleased to announce that this year's Social Responsibility Champion is John McManus.

For the past 13 years, John McManus has been a devoted volunteer and passionate advocate for the Y and the community. In 2005, John joined Somerset County YMCA's (SCYMCA) Board of Directors and quickly demonstrated initiative and leadership.

Over the years, he has helped to advance the Y's mission by contributing his knowledge, time and talents to many committees and task forces. Currently, John serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Board Governance Committee, as well as serving on the Financial Development Committee and Capital Campaign Leadership Cabinet. Recently, John was elected by his peers to be the next Board Chair beginning in January 2019.

Board governance and exemplary philanthropy are among John's most notable contributions, and genuine relationships are at the core of both.

With his leadership, John has worked with SCYMCA's CEO to elevate board governance standards in recruiting, onboarding, training and recognizing board members.

His ability to nurture relationships has led to high quality, productive board members. Additionally, John's personal fundraising approach has helped to propel SCYMCA's success through stewarding relationships, sharing the Y's impact and hosting donor cultivation and recognition events in his home.

While John has effectively raised funds throughout his service to the Y, his increased enthusiasm over the past six years has been remarkable.

From 2013 through 2018, John personally raised \$279,440 for SCYMCA, which helped to surpass the campaign goal each year. In 2012, overall gifts to the Annual Campaign equaled \$185,668, and in 2018 SCYMCA raised a total of \$1,003,526 - a 540% increase.

John's fundraising leadership has inspired his peers on the Board of Directors and has positioned him as a mentor to members of the Branch Boards. Toward that end, John initiated fundraising trainings for Branch Board members to develop as enlightened Y advocates.

His passion for and belief in the Y's mission have augmented the Board of Directors' participation in our Annual Campaign with 100% board giving and getting over the past several years.

John's commitment to the Y extends well beyond SCYMCA. He has volunteered to train board members from other YMCAs on governance and philanthropy and has hosted Planned Giving workshops for community members. Never resting on his laurels, John proactively hones his skills by regularly attending NAYDO conferences.

Through his tenure as a volunteer, John has grown as a respected, cause-driven leader. His dedication to the Y has resulted in vital funds that help the Y to provide financial assistance and mission-based programs, which enhance quality of life and make a meaningful difference.

John strengthens community by bringing the Y's mission to life and ensuring that everyone in the community has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

John consistently demonstrates a passion for giving back to advance the Y's mission and to address challenging community needs.

Please join me in congratulating John McManus as a true champion for the community and well deserving recipient of the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance 2018 Social Responsibility Champion Award.

