



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Vincent J. Marturano, President & CEO  
(508) 897-1220

[vmarturano@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:vmarturano@oldcolonymca.org)

Michael Ricci, Vice President of Communications  
(508) 897-1222

[mricci@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:mricci@oldcolonymca.org)

**Old Colony YMCA Raises over \$450,000 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rise Up Gala**

*The event with hosted by KISS 108's Billy Costa, and raised funds to support social services and family programs. Former Ocean Spray CEO Randy Papadellis was honored with the evening's Call to Action Award.*

Old Colony YMCA (OCY), a nonprofit charitable organization headquartered in Brockton and serving 31 communities in Southeastern Massachusetts, raised more than \$450,000 on Saturday night at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rise Up Gala in support of social services and family programs.

The event, which was held at Boston Marriott – Quincy, welcomed 400 guests and more than 70 sponsors. Proceeds will help the Y provide services for children and families throughout the region through unique programs focused on family homelessness, inclusion, summer camp, and education.

As a part of his remarks, Old Colony Y's President and CEO Vinnie Marturano illustrated the unconventional nature of the organization. "It's no mistake we're not exactly an ordinary YMCA. Wading into uncharted territory is a core element of our work. If there's an opportunity for us to serve children and families better, we'll do it...it's what our community deserves."

Billy Costa of KISS 108's Matty in the Morning Show and WGBH – a "Y kid" himself – was emcee and auctioneer for the evening, guiding guests through a slate of speakers and video presentations that underscored the mission and values of the organization.

The Chair of the Rise Up Gala committee, Eli Florence of Florence Electric and Kaydon Integrated Technologies, was surprised with the Y's Leadership Award in recognition of all his efforts to forward the mission of the organization.

During the Fund-A-Need portion of the program, Billy Costa had some help from 8-year-old Max, a participant in one of the Y's summer programs called Power Scholars, as the crowd raised money to support academic achievement gap programs. Another opportunity for support focused on families experiencing homelessness and the slate of wrap-around services that Y provides in addition to housing and shelter.



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Claudio Moniz, a former resident of a YMCA transitional housing program, gave a moving testimonial about how he became a role model and a leader at the Y's Camp Yomechas. Now 20 years old, Moniz reminded the audience that every summer, there are "hundreds of little Claudios looking for that safe space, that caring adult, and that inspiration to grow up and be part of something bigger."

To conclude the program, Marturano presented the inaugural Call to Action Award to Randy Papadellis, who has held senior positions at companies like Frito-Lay, Cadbury Schwepps, and Welch's before becoming CEO at Ocean Spray Cranberries. Papadellis serves as a volunteer member of the Y's Board of Directors, and was recognized for his leadership and willingness to "challenge the limits of what it means to be a YMCA."

The gala brought together more than 70 sponsors for the evening, including leadership support by Hologic, Inc., Merrill Lynch, The Behman Group, Chuck and Carol Dockendorff, Florence Electric and Kaydon Inregrated Technologies, HarborOne Bank, Barbara Hassan, Independent Electric Supply, J. Derenzo Co., North Easton Savings Bank, Sysco Boston, Attorney John Twohig and Attorney Susan Nicastro, W.B. Mason, and Yale Electric.

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### **About the Old Colony YMCA**

At the Y, strengthening communities is our cause. We offer affordable child care and camp to families, anti-gang programs for at-risk youth, health and fitness programs for families, workforce development, mental health and substance abuse services through our licensed clinic, and numerous other services and programs that promote healthy spirit, mind, and body. Founded in 1887, the Old Colony YMCA is a non-profit charitable organization serving more than 140,000 people annually in communities throughout Southeastern Massachusetts through eleven branches located in Brockton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Middleboro, Plymouth, Stoughton, and Taunton.

**Learn more about Old Colony YMCA: [www.oldcolonymca.org](http://www.oldcolonymca.org)**