

# Kaatskill Life

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On a hillside overlooking the Catskill High Peaks in Claryville, local elected officials, dignitaries, and Frost Valley YMCA leadership and staff assembled in mid September for the opening dedication ceremony of the Frost Valley YMCA Camp's Guenther Family Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art health facility. Attendees acknowledged the \$1 million gift of Paul Guenther, chairman of Frost Valley's Board of Trustees, whose contribution helped make the Center a reality.

Mr. Guenther, a businessman who has a home in the area and is also a resident of New York City, has actively supported the creation of the Wellness Center to update the medical facility of the nation's only mainstreamed kidney dialysis summer sleep-away program and to expand mainstreaming opportunities year-round for youth with other health challenges including severe asthma and obesity. Of his association with Frost Valley dating to the 1970s, Mr. Guenther said, "It's been part of our family's life ever since. From the beginning of my involvement, I've believed in the importance of creating a state-of-the-art health center that matched the quality of this amazing place."

Addressing the gathering, Congressman Maurice

Hinchey honored Mr. Guenther's generosity and Frost Valley's leadership in creating innovative programs to meet the needs of all children. "Frost Valley complements our school curriculum in natural sciences for thousands of students from New York and New Jersey. It's been my pleasure to be associated with this organization since 1975. Today, I thank you for the difference in the lives of children and families that you make."

In paying tribute to Mr. Guenther, Jerry Huncosky,



Frost Valley YMCA's CEO, Jerry Huncosky (left) with Paul Guenther and family at the Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony. *courtesy of Vickers and Beechler Photography*

CEO of Frost Valley YMCA, said, "You more than answered the call that comes from tens of thousands of visitors every year as well as the whispers that come from the more than two thousand dialysis campers and well over one thousand mentally and physically challenged campers that have benefited from our programs. This is a terrific day for Frost Valley and for thousands of children who attend camp every year."

In addition to offering the Kidney Program, which is operated through a partnership with Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York City and staffed by doctors and nurses from throughout New York State, the Frost Valley YMCA is a premiere education, recreation, and meeting center providing year-round programming for children, school, corporate, and youth groups. At the ceremony, Eva Gottscho, a major founder of the program, said of the 34-year partnership, "Frost Valley, The Ruth Gottscho Kidney Foundation and Children's Hospital at Montefiore will never get a divorce — we have too many children to take care of together!"