



Photo provided

The 16,000-square-foot building at the Guenther Family Wellness Center houses a general health care wing, kidney dialysis unit, an education center and performance theater. The center will serve thousands who visit the YMCA each year.

## Frost Valley camp dedicates family wellness center

**CLARYVILLE**— The Frost Valley YMCA's new Guenther Family Wellness Center enables the year-round camp and retreat center to increase its ability to serve children and families with special needs.

On Saturday, the Ruth Gottscho Dialysis Center officially moved into its new 16,000-square-foot building at the Guenther Family Wellness Center, which houses a general health-care wing, the kidney dialysis unit, an education center and performance theater. The center will serve thousands who visit the YMCA each year.

Guenther, chairman of the board of the New York Philharmonic who has a home in the area and is also a resident of New York City, is chairman of Frost Valley's board of trustees. His \$1 million contribution supported the creation of the Wellness Center to update the medical facility of the nation's only mainstreamed kidney dialysis summer sleepaway program and expand mainstreaming opportunities year round for youth with other health challenges, including severe asthma and obesity.

For more than 30 years, Frost Valley has hosted children with chronic kidney disease in a program made possible through a partnership with Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx and the Ruth Gottscho Kidney Foundation, based in Short Hills, N.J. This summer, 38 children received kidney dialysis during summer camp at Frost Valley including the first to be treated in the new facility.

Doctors and nurses move to the camp for eight weeks, creating an opportunity for children with kidney disease to be mainstreamed with well camp cabinmates "just like regular kids."

The children attend the Wellness Center daily for checkups, medication and a range of dialysis treatments while spending as much time as possible in traditional camp activities.

From September to June, the Guenther Family Wellness Center will serve as the health hub for thousands of schoolchildren attending the camp for weeklong outdoor education trips and families and groups on retreat weekends.