

A fitting \$1.2M gift; New YMCA Family Pool to honor legacy of former aquatics director

By Tim Lima tlima@andovertownsman.com | Posted: Thursday, October 16, 2014 1:45 am

Almost one year to the day from when its completely revamped facility will open, the Andover/North Andover YMCA publicly announced its biggest gift in the history of the Merrimack Valley branch — with a personal significance that was even larger.

The 165 Haverhill St. facility has received a \$1.2 million gift from the Glancy family of Andover.

The donation was given to name the facility's new family pool after former YMCA aquatic director and Methuen High School swim coach Jane Cronin, who was killed in a car accident several years ago while driving home from the Y.

An event this week at the YMCA was meant to both formally announce the gift and remember one of the facility's most beloved employees and supporters.

"The YMCA does great things for lots of people across the Merrimack Valley," David Glancy said in a release. "With a bigger and better footprint, it will provide still more services to more people. We are grateful to be a part of it and naming the pool after Jane Cronin was my first and only choice."

Glancy, a portfolio manager with Putnam Investments, never knew Cronin, but is acquainted with her husband, Carlton. He said that from what he has heard about the late swim coach, "she stood for what's best at the Y."

"We have known Carlton a long time and knew of Jane and her work at the Y for as long," he said. "YMCAs are full of Jane Cronins — people working hard, touching lots of lives of people of all ages, from all backgrounds."

Glancy and his wife, Stacia, together with their three children, have been longtime members of the YMCA, which they called "a big part of our lives for 20 years."

Carlton Cronin is the current coach of the Andover/North Andover YMCA Hurricanes Swim Team, leading its Senior 1 and Senior 2 groups.

He spoke to a crowded conference room as several members of his high school girls swim team looked on in support.

"I'm extremely thankful, from the bottom of my heart, for (the Glancys') choice," he said. "My first thought was 'Wow, this is great.' It was a roller-coaster day of emotions for me, but the more I thought about it, I thought 'Wow, this is unbelievable.'"

Merrimack Valley YMCA President and CEO Steven Ives said that the large family pool is the "driver" for its current expansion project. He said that during the planning for the project, which broke ground in March and is expected to be completed on Oct. 15, 2015, YMCA officials focused first on the pool "and then some other things."



\$1.2M YMCA gift for Jane Cronin pool

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photoThe newly renovated main pool at the Merrimack Valley YMCA. A \$1.2 million gift from the Glancy family of Andover will allow the new Family Pool to be named after the late Jane Cronin, who was the aquatic director at the Andover/North Andover YMCA.

The Andover/North Andover YMCA serves roughly 8,000 people from the area.

“This being the largest gift in the history of our YMCA is both an extraordinary gesture and a strong endorsement for the good work we do,” Ives said. “Our community is excited about what we are doing and we have very strong momentum. The best is still yet to come.”

According to a release, the YMCA has now raised more than \$7 million, surpassing its fundraising goal for the \$21 million Andover/North Andover Capital Expansion Project. The remaining cost of the project is said to be financed.

On Tuesday, the Jane Cronin pool was what was earning all the attention.

“This gift will create endless possibilities of quiet stories of impact for every sector of the community, which most of us will never even hear about or imagine” Carlton Cronin said. “With this gift, Jane can still do good work.”