

The Daily Courier

Sunday, October 19, 2008

New park opens: Donations aid YMCA, community

[Jason Soifer](#)

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PRESCOTT - Fred Lindquist remembers how the YMCA in Peoria, Ill., helped him make the right choices in his life when he was a young man.

"What they did for me is teach me the values of the YMCA," he said.

Lindquist and his family were passing those values on to future generations Sunday afternoon at the grand opening of the [Prescott YMCA Lindquist Family Park](#).

His wife, Karen, and daughter, Signe, cut the ribbon with Fred as people of all ages enjoyed the park.

"It's really to leave a legacy of something that is beneficial to the entire community," he said.

The Lindquist and Ron and Laura James families each gave about \$225,000 to buy the roughly three-and-a-half-acre parcel adjacent to the Harold James YMCA Community Center.

Both families donated the land to the non-profit, giving its members its first significant outdoor recreational and educational space.

Gabrielle Liese donated the landscaping in memory of her husband, Ted.

The J.W. Kieckhefer Family and the Margaret T. Morris foundations also made contributions to the new park's construction.

The Prescott Kiwanis Club donated the fitness equipment in the park.

The park features a track, cabanas and grass for people such as Sue Arriola and her family to enjoy.



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Children and parents play with a parachute at the Prescott YMCA Lindquist Family Park Sunday afternoon.

Arriola said she became a member of the YMCA more than 20 years ago and she said it is a great place to help raise her children.

And Arriola said the YMCA's amenities benefit everyone.

"It's a great facility when you have young children, it meets family's needs," she said. "It's very accessible to people of all age groups and needs."

YMCA Executive Director Allan Klinikowski said people can play flag football, soccer, run around the track and enjoy outdoor concerts.

"It just gives us many more opportunities to provide programs," he said. "This gives us a whole new component for our childcare program."

Prescott resident Ivie Hone would agree with that.

Hone is a member of the YMCA's Prescott Lightning gymnastics club and she spent her afternoon doing flips in the new park.

Hone plays basketball, swims and gets a workout at the community center.

"It helps us do our thing and workout," she said.

Contact the reporter at jsoifer@prescottaz.com

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ABOVE: Activities on Sunday at the grand opening of the Prescott YMCA Lindquist Family Park included potato sack races. BELOW: Fred Lindquist, his wife Karen and daughter, Signe, cut the ribbon to open the park.