



HODAG FACILITIES FOUNDATION

8A W. Davenport St. Suite 222 • P.O. Box 1522 • Rhinelander, WI 54501 www.hodagfacilities.com

Press Release

For immediate release

For more information, contact

Steve Jensen, Hodag Facilities Foundation, 715-369-0900

Heck Family Gives Back

Rhinelander, WI – When Bob and June Heck became involved with the Hodag swim program back 35 years ago, they were not expecting to develop a lifelong passion for the sport. “We looked at swimming as a way for our kids to learn how to swim,” said Bob Heck. Heck, who stated that “he could not swim across a bathtub” believed with all of the lakes in the area, it was important to learn the basics of swimming and also believed strongly in activities and athletics.

After seeing their five children swim and their two sons compete on both a state and national level, Bob and June are proud to be giving back to the program. “There are a lot of life lessons gained from being involved in athletics,” explains David Heck, a 1988 graduate of Rhinelander High School. “Sports and being involved in extra curricular activities teaches you discipline and helps develop a strong work ethic for your future. It also teaches you the values of winning and losing and not giving up.”

The Hecks are helping to give the next generation a hand up with a \$100,000 donation to the Hodag Facilities Foundation Capital Campaign. The donation is being given by the Heck Family: Bob and June Heck, David and Gina Heck, and Ken and Jenny Heck.

In addition to supporting overall school facility improvements, the donation will also dramatically improve the Rhinelander High School swim facilities. The equipment, display, electrical upgrades, and starting platforms resulting from the donation are the latest technology and will provide excellent training tools and a competitive platform for years to come. “The renovation of the pool area allowed for the installation of a fully in-deck timing system on both the start end and the turn end — removing all cabling from the deck to create a cleaner and safer environment,” explains Bob Heck.

Ken Heck, a 1986 graduate of Rhinelander High School, volunteers his time to teach swim skills to area youth as part of the coaching team for the Rhinelander Swim Club and has seen the benefits of the facility upgrades first hand. “It’s important to have a place to teach young kids how to swim,” explains Ken Heck. “Overall, these improvements show the kids we believe in them, and the community.”

The Rhinelander High School pool improvements were not part of the referendum additions with the exception of HVAC and minor structural improvements. The pool at Rhinelander High School was built in 1958 and is the only competition pool built in Rhinelander. It serves as practice and competition space for the RHS boys and girls swim team, JWMS girls swim team, RHS cross country team, Special Olympics and Oneida County Dive Team. In addition, the facility hosts community and school activities such as physical education classes, public swim lessons, adult open swim, and community organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Honey Rock, Fort Wilderness, and Chippewa Ranch.

The pool also serves the rapidly growing Rhinelander Swim Club, who donated \$50,000 this spring for various improvements to the pool. Three years ago, the club had 49 swimmers. Today, in its 48th season, it has grown to 90 and has a strong future.

As business owners and employers in the area, the Hecks see the important role school facilities have in a community. “I want to see our students and community succeed,” said David Heck, who currently volunteers his time as President of the Hodag Facilities Foundation. “The opportunity to contribute to the current enhanced facilities helps in this objective. I’m amazed by the many individuals, businesses, and volunteers who are coming together to help our students and our community achieve their fullest potential.”

For more information on the Hodag Facilities Foundation call the HFF office at 715-369-0900, visit www.hodagfacilities.com, or e-mail info@hodagfacilities.com.

About the Hodag Facilities Foundation

The Hodag Facilities Foundation is a volunteer run, non-profit community based organization dedicated to improving the facilities of the School District of Rhinelander in order to provide a better environment for children, as well as the entire Rhinelander community. The Hodag Facilities Foundation envisions facilities that meet long-term needs of the Rhinelander schools and community, support the well being of youth and adults alike, and strengthen ties to Hodag alumni.

#