

Katey Gordon
Community Relations Director
434-3969 x111 OR katey@vycc.org

Press Release
for immediate release
October 23, 2006

VYCC Gala Event to Complete Barn Raising Campaign **Silent Auction features GEM Electric Car**



VYCC HQ at the West Monitor Barn, Rte 2 in Richmond Electric car will be part of the denim + diamonds silent auction

Photo Opportunity:

*Any day, October 20-27th -- See the new VYCC headquarters in the West Monitor Barn on Route 2, just two miles east of Richmond. Founding President, Tom Hark, will give a tour of the facility and demonstrate the GEM electric car. The car will be one of many items featured in the silent auction at the **denim + diamonds** gala event on Saturday, October 28th.*

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) is nearing completion of a major capital campaign to establish the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont as its permanent home. In conjunction with the Richmond Land Trust, the **Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders** campaign has successfully raised nearly \$3 million to restore the historic monitor barn, conserve 220 acres of adjacent land, and fully outfit the site for VYCC's youth education and training programs.

The VYCC moved into its new headquarters in the fall of 2005 and is just now completing its first year in the new facility. "It's been fabulous!" notes Thomas Hark, Founding President of the VYCC. But, the organization still needs about \$800,000 to complete the project. "We need to do a little more fund raising to complete our barn raising project," explains Hark.

To complete the campaign, the VYCC is hosting a gala fundraising event called **denim + diamonds**. This high-end barn dance will be held at the West Monitor Barn on Saturday, October 28th. The evening includes a delicious dinner provided by *Dish Catering* followed by dancing to the music of the *Starline Rhythm Boys*. Guests will also have the opportunity to play blackjack, roulette, and other casino games for charity and prizes and bid on various silent auction items donated by local businesses. Complimentary wine will be served with dinner and there will be a cash bar provided by Wine Works.

One of the more unusual items that will be on auction at the **denim + diamonds** event is a 2-seater electric car manufactured by Global Electric Motorcars (GEM), a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler and the leading producer and seller of low speed neighborhood electric vehicles. This is one of a small fleet of electric cars that have been used

for a few years by corps members to get around in some of the larger Vermont state parks that the VYCC manages. “This car would be perfect for someone to use on their property or to get around town in warm weather,” says Hark. “We’re hoping it will generate a lot of interest and, of course, a high bid.” The 2007 version of the GEM electric car retails for about \$6,750.

The VYCC was established in 1985 to teach youth to take personal responsibility for all their actions. Every year, the VYCC trains more than 300 young adults to manage state parks, build wilderness trails and bridges, and more. The Corps members and Crew Leaders complete their summer experience with far more than a paycheck. Aside from learning a host of new skills, these young people read, write, and discuss contemporary social, political, and ethical issues together on a daily basis. Within a diverse group, participants have the opportunity to learn a great deal about respectful communication. Furthermore, these young people learn about what it means to be dependable and have a strong work ethic. The VYCC is helping to create thoughtful and responsible young citizens.

To learn more about the VYCC or the *denim + diamonds* event, or to reserve tickets, please contact Katey Gordon at katey@vycc.org or call 434-3969 ext. 113.

Tickets:

\$125 per person – includes dinner, dancing, and \$20 in chips for casino games.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

\$1,000 Bricklayer – includes seating for 2 and permanent recognition on a paving stone in the front patio

\$5,000 Diamond Sponsor – includes a premier table for eight guests, a half-page ad in the program, and permanent recognition on the West Monitor Barn wall plaque

\$10,000 Barn-Raiser – includes 2 a premier tables for eight guests each, a full page ad in the program, and permanent recognition on the West Monitor Barn wall plaque.

Silent auction items secured thus far include:

Teak bar table and two bar stools (\$1,129 value) from Gardener’s Supply

Tickets to Mad River Glenn Ski Area (\$54 value each) donated by Union Street Media

1 Hour Massage (\$85 value) from John Ramirez at the Energy Room

1 Hour personal financial planning session and lunch at Leunigs (\$250 value) with Hanson Investments

Tom Thompson Print, mounted (\$58 value) donated by Silver Maple Gallery

Portable Lamp (\$412.50 value) donated by the Lighting House

House rental on Lake George (\$1500 value) offered by Richard and Anne Adler

\$200 gift certificate from Isis Sportswear for Women

2 Tickets to the Flynn Theater’s Showing of “Bloom and Bud” (\$68 value)

GEM electric car, gently used (\$1500 value)

Scenic Flight (\$150 value) donated by Larry Copp

2 stunning wall sconces (\$200 value) donated by Dryad Design