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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

The Ocean Reef Foundation Awards YMCA of Greater Miami Funds for Youth Programming
Money to benefit children at the Upper Keys YMCA

Miami (*April 7, 2009*) – The Ocean Reef Foundation has awarded the YMCA of Greater Miami over \$40,000 benefiting the Upper Keys YMCA. These funds will help enhance and expand both the 2009 Upper Keys YMCA Summer Camp Program and Competitive Edge Tennis Program.

The Upper Keys YMCA's Summer Camp program will receive \$35,000 in funds for enhancements including the addition of both a marine biology component and a literacy component. These additions will allow participating children to benefit from a more enriching, educational and exciting summer camp experience.

In 2008, the YMCA received the Excellence in Youth Programming Award from The Children's Trust for the Jr. Marine Biology Camp held at Virginia Key Beach last summer. With the generous help of The Ocean Reef Foundation, the Y can now extend this successful summer program to the Key Largo community.

"The Upper Keys Y has never offered a Marine Biology Camp before," said Kerry Cosme, Upper Keys YMCA Park Director. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to offer this exciting, new summer program to our participants and adding to their summer camp experience with us."

The Upper Keys YMCA Competitive Edge Tennis Program will benefit from \$7,500 in funds that will provide financial assistance for children whose families lack the necessary financial resources to allow them to participate. The funds will also be used to support the general expansion of the tennis program to a higher number of skill levels and groups.

In 2008, a similar grant of \$7,500 allowed the Upper Keys Y to better serve the Key Largo community by doubling the number of children served by the tennis program, in addition to expanding the program into two local middle schools. With the help of this grant, subsidized tennis lessons were offered to over 300 youth in 2008, including several special needs and autistic children.

“The Ocean Reef Foundation has already done so many great things for the Homestead and Key Largo community,” Cosme said. “We are very excited to receive this generous contribution that will allow us to enhance our programs significantly, better serve our community and attract more participants. I think this will bring a whole new life to the Upper Keys YMCA.”

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Founded in 1916, the YMCA of Greater Miami is one of South Florida’s oldest and largest not-for-profit organizations. With branches throughout Miami-Dade and upper Monroe County, the Y is committed to building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. Its scope of services includes youth sports, aquatics, after-school, preschool and child care, summer camp, teen clubs, health and fitness programs, and membership. For more information about the YMCA of Greater Miami, call toll free 1-877-WOW-YMCA or visit

www.ymcamiami.org.

The Ocean Reef Foundation is an independent, charitable, and not-for-profit organization.

It was established to enhance responsible and effective philanthropy throughout the community.

Our primary role is to assist the Ocean Reef community by encouraging and administering philanthropy to benefit effective projects and charities throughout Ocean Reef and the surrounding area.