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Media Contacts:

Lilyvania Mikulski/ Lilyvania.mikulski@rbbpr.com/ 305-448-3425

Charlotte Donn/ cdonn@ymcamiami.org/ 305-357-4000

YMCA OF GREATER MIAMI TO REOPEN PRESCHOOL IN ALLAPATTAH THIS MAY

New YMCA Preschool Offers Affordable Education to Local Families

MIAMI, Fla. (April 22, 2010) - This May, the YMCA of Greater Miami will reopen a preschool in the Village of Allapattah YMCA Family branch located at 2370 NW 17 Avenue in Miami. After decades of servicing the Allapattah community and closing the previous school for construction in 2008 to build the Village of Allapattah YMCA Family branch, the YMCA is bringing back the tradition of raising generations of strong kids in Allapattah with the new school. The preschool is part of the Village of Allapattah, the first-of-its-kind project combines two towers of affordable housing units for seniors and families with a full YMCA facility.

The Village of Allapattah YMCA's preschool program will open on Monday, May 3rd and will offer preschool services year-round, Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the new location, the YMCA will be able to serve up 120 children. A \$50 registration fee is required for all students, and the weekly fees for the new school are as follow:

- \$120 per week for 1 year-old toddlers
- \$115 per week for 2 year-old toddlers
- \$100 per week for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 years-old

Registration has already begun and space is still available. The YMCA has financial assistance available for qualifying families. Interested parents and families are encouraged to call 786-422-7504 for additional information.

“With the reopening of the YMCA of Greater Miami preschool in the Allapattah community, we are providing local families once again with an accessible education option,” said Alfred Sanchez, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Miami. “The YMCA is a family-centered organization that continues to build healthy communities in Miami-Dade County offering youth, family and senior programming.”

Aside from the pre-school, the 27,000 square foot, state-of-the art Village of Allapattah YMCA Family branch includes exercise and wellness areas and currently offers programming for people of all ages. The YMCA branch opened to the public in January of this year with contributions from the Bank of America Charitable Trust used to create the child care lobby and entrance, and contributions from the Fred C. and Helen Donn Flipse Family funding the welcome center and lobby.

A collaboration between the YMCA, Carlisle Development Group and Biscayne Housing Group to meet the needs of the community for affordable housing and programming, the Village of Allapattah has been supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, and funding for the residential component was provided by Florida Housing Finance Corporation and Miami-Dade County.