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**YMCA OF GREATER MIAMI RECEIVES MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION IN GRANTS
FROM 21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER**

The funds will benefit the YMCA's afterschool programs in Miami-Dade County

MIAMI (October 12, 2009)- The YMCA of Greater Miami has received a \$2,507,166 grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) to be awarded over a five-year period. Each yearly grant of \$545,036 will provide funds for literacy, math and science activities for children enrolling in nine of the YMCA's afterschool programs, located in Homestead, Hialeah and North Miami.

The 21st CCLC program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Additionally, a portion of the funds will be used to provide tutoring for students, enhance literacy programs, purchase math and science materials, buy general supplies for the children and hire more staff to assist with YMCA afterschool care programs.

"This important and generous grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center will allow us, over the next five years, to serve more than 900 children who would normally not be able to enroll in the YMCA's afterschool programs due to financial need," said Alfred Sanchez, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Miami. "With these funds, not only will the YMCA be providing afterschool care for children in need, but we will also be enhancing the math, science and literacy curriculums offered at our programs."

The YMCA of Greater Miami currently serves approximately 4,000 children at its afterschool programs daily, where children bond with children their age as well engage in creative play, supplement the school's academic curriculum, and participate in outdoor games. Most recently, the YMCA incorporated swimming, dancing and youth sports to its afterschool care programs at several locations.

For more information on the YMCA's afterschool programs, including locations, enrollment options and financial assistance availability, please call 305-357-6622 or visit www.ymcamiami.org.

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