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Plant City YMCA Launches Annual Giving Campaign

Funds will help make Plant City a stronger community for residents

Plant City, FL (March 11, 2013) – Raising three young children is the last thing Mary thought she'd be doing in her mid-60s. But it's the role she found herself playing after her son and daughter-in-law ran into trouble with the law. Now, Mary and her husband have full custody of her grandchildren. "I've raised the parents and now I'm raising their kids," says Mary who found herself in a tough spot when summer rolled around. Through a financial scholarship, Mary was able to send her grandkids to summer camp at the Plant City Family YMCA. "The kids were so happy and they totally enjoyed their summer there. They enjoyed the staff there and it's been such a good experience for us altogether." The siblings are already bugging their grandmother about next summer. "It's been a great blessing to me and my family the way the Y stepped in and helped us when we couldn't really help ourselves," says Mary.

To ensure the Y can continue to provide Plant City residents, like Mary, with life-enhancing services, the Plant City YMCA is launching its annual community support campaign this month.

As a leading nonprofit for strengthening community, financial gifts to the Y will help advance programming and services that support youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. More importantly, 100-percent of donations stay in the community, having a direct impact on residents right here in Plant City.

"Through our community support campaign, we want to educate people that we are more than a place to go to exercise or swim, but an organization that does vital work through shared commitment to nurture the potential of kids, promote healthy living and foster a sense of social responsibility," said Leigh Scott, marketing coordinator for the Plant City YMCA. "The Y contributes to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods through a variety of ways that benefit all of us who live and work in Plant City."

This year, the Plant City Family YMCA hopes to raise \$70,000. Funds raised will help provide financial assistance for children, adults and families to participate in Y programs, ranging from youth & adult sports and arts; health and well-being programs such as the Y's Diabetes Prevention Program and LiveStrong; to water safety, summer camp; and fitness classes.

The Plant City Y's **COMMUNITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN kick-off** will begin **Monday, March 18th**. When you give to the Y, you strengthen our community and 100-percent of your contribution will make a meaningful, enduring impact right in our own neighborhood. To learn more about how you can support the Y's cause, please contact Andrea Cook, Executive Director at 813.757.6677, andrea.cook@tampaymca.org or visit www.tampaymca.org for more information

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The Plant City Y is committed to providing kids with the things they need to be successful in school and life; preventing/reducing childhood obesity; providing cancer survivors and their families with a place to heal through the LiveStrong program; ensuring active older adults maintain/improve physical and social health while aging; and preventing and reducing accidental death due to drowning by providing aquatic education and swim lessons. The Plant City Y values diversity and inclusion by being open and welcoming to all.

About the Y

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is one of the area's leading nonprofits, strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 19 facilities engage more than 142,000 men, women and children — regardless of age, income or background — to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve our community's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Tampa Y has long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.tampaymca.org