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Contact:

Lalita Llerena
Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA
813.224.9622 ext. 1240
813.545.7772 (cell)
Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org

Successful Groundbreaking for The Family Y at Big Bend Road

Tampa, FL (January 21, 2014) – On Tuesday, January 21st at 11am, about 100 guests - including Hillsborough County commissioners, state representatives and other community leaders attended the groundbreaking for the outdoor amenities of phase one for The Family Y at Big Bend Road. The groundbreaking ceremony took place inside Vance Vogel Park on Bullfrog Creek Road in Gibsonton. Special dignitaries were in attendance including Hillsborough County Commissioners Sandra Murman, Ken Hagan and Al Higginbotham.

Under a joint-use lease agreement between Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and the [Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA](#), phase one of the project includes five multi-purpose athletic fields, a covered basketball court, playground, picnic pavilion, parking and drainage improvements. Phase one is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2014, offering youth and adult sports and summer day camp.

The Tampa Y is responsible for raising donations to cover the cost and construction for future phases, which consist of an aquatics center, an approximately 30,000-square-foot starter family facility and additional parking. The entire facility is anticipated to be complete in the next three to five years, depending upon capital fundraising efforts.

“There is a lot of excitement in the growing Southern Hillsborough County community for a safe place to provide much-needed services to an underserved part of the county,” says Tampa Y Communications Director Lalita Llerena. “Such services build character and confidence in our children, enable families to spend quality time together, and provide a supportive environment where everyone - regardless of age, income or background - can come together to improve their quality of life.”

The Family Y at Big Bend Road will strengthen the Southern Hillsborough County community by:

- Promoting economic development by providing over 125 jobs.
- Reducing accidental drowning.
- Improving high school graduation rates.
- Helping reduce obesity epidemic in adults and children.
- Giving seniors a sense of home where they can exercise, socialize and celebrate health.
- Strengthening and supporting cancer survivors and their families.
- Nurturing the potential of every child and teen.
- Improving the quality of life for residents.
- Teaching children life skills through summer and sports camps.
- Creating a community hub, bringing together diverse groups of people for a common good.

For more information about the county’s role in this project, [click here](#) or contact Kurt Gremley at 813-272-5810 or 813-307-1007. For more information about the YMCA’s role, contact Lalita Llerena at 813-224-9622, ext. 1240 or Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org.

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About the Tampa Y

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#) and 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 160,000 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