



For Immediate Release

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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Y Success Afterschool Program to Light Up Downtown Tampa Skyline

SunTrust Building will glow yellow Oct. 22 in honor of Y afterschool programs that help youth achieve in school and life.

Tampa, FL (Oct. 20, 2015) – The SunTrust building in downtown Tampa will shine as a beacon of youth achievement on Thursday, Oct. 22 to honor Tampa YMCA afterschool programs. The event is part of the national Afterschool Alliance’s 15th annual *Lights On Afterschool* event to celebrate the achievements of afterschool students and draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs to serve the millions of children nationwide who are unsupervised and at risk each weekday afternoon. The lighting is one of more than 8,000 such events across the nation emphasizing the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open after school.

“The Y provides more than a safe place for working families to send their kids after school,” says Tampa Y Youth Development Associate Vice-President Candace Culver. “Whether participating in intensive reading programs, working with a tutor to solve math problems, getting healthier through increased physical activity or working with teammates to complete a project, kids participating in Y Success Afterschool are nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential.”

Y Success Afterschool includes homework help, onsite tutoring, fun physical activity and healthy living programming. The program is located in 29 Hillsborough County public elementary schools and four YMCA facilities, including YMCA Camp Cristina, Bob Sierra Youth & Family Center, Bob Gilbertson Central City Family YMCA and Northwest Hillsborough Family YMCA.

Like all other Tampa Y programs, Y Success Afterschool offers financial assistance to families in need. “We believe in order for a community to be strong, our families need to be strong,” says Candace. “The Tampa Y is a resource to all area families, ensuring every member of the community has the opportunity to be healthier, more confident, connected and secure.”

For more information about Y Success Afterschool, [click here](#) or call 813.223.2895.

Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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About the Tampa 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, 18 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