

AUDUBON YMCA RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FROM HUGGIES® LITTLE SWIMMERS® TO STRENGTHEN PARENT-CHILD SWIM ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

One of 100 YMCAs nationwide selected to receive funding to support local outreach efforts

YMCA of the USA and Huggies Little Swimmers®, have awarded the Audubon YMCA a \$1,000 grant to enhance its parent-child swim outreach initiatives for the Norristown community.

The gift is one of 100 grants of \$1,000 each awarded by Huggies Little Swimmers® to YMCAs across the country to enhance the YMCA Parent/Child Aquatic Enrichment Program for children from 6 to 36 months old in underserved populations. The Audubon YMCA will offer their Shrimp and Perch swim programs free of charge for up to 90 underprivileged families in the Norristown area. The funding for one participant covers the cost of weekly half-hour swim lessons over the course of 10 weeks, as well as their YMCA Program Member fee.

"Huggies Little Swimmers® is pleased to support the Audubon YMCA in its efforts to provide such a vital program to the community," said Bob Thibault, President, Kimberly-Clark Personal Care Marketing. "Classes that help young children explore and adjust to a water environment can have a positive, life-long impact."

Recognizing that the parent or guardian is the first and best teacher of the child, the primary objectives of YMCA parent/child aquatic programs are to promote water enrichment and water readiness activities and help strengthen and support families. "YMCA parent/child aquatic programs provide parents with vital water safety information, and allows the family the opportunity to spend quality time with their child," said Aquatics Director Chris Rizza.

In the Norristown area, the YMCA serves families through STRONG, a grant-funded program designed to extend YMCA services to low-income families in the borough. STRONG offers financial aid for summer day camp, after-school activities, and family recreation, as well as provides services such as after-school homework help and constructive team activities designed to keep kids off the streets and to help them learn life skills.

The purpose of the Audubon YMCA is to improve the quality of life in our community by offering programs, services, and facilities that promote strong families, good health, fitness, wellness, community services, youth and adult development and equality for all. The YMCA encourages the sensitivity to the physical, mental, and spiritual enhancement of all persons regardless of age, sex, race, religious affiliation or economic status. More information on the Audubon YMCA, the STRONG Program, and YMCA Financial Development can be found at www.fvymca.org.

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