

Contact: Julie Eaton
Ozarks Regional YMCA
417 S. Jefferson
Springfield, MO 65806
417-862-8962 ex. 124

December 15, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OZARKS REGIONAL YMCA AWARDED \$5,000 GRANT FROM
JCPENNEY AFTERSCHOOL FUND

Parents searching for safe quality afterschool programs are getting some much needed assistance. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Ozarks Regional YMCA will have the opportunity to help more children participate in safe, life-enriching afterschool programs.

This grant award is specifically targeted to help YMCA's provide financial assistance to new and previously enrolled students (grades k-5) who cannot afford to participate in afterschool program because of financial circumstances.

"The JCPenney afterschool fund is firmly committed to supporting youth-serving organizations, like the YMCA, dedicated to providing safe, meaningful programs during the crucial hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., when studies show that youth are at a greater risk of involvement in crime, drug abuse and other destructive behaviors," said Jodi Gibson, JCPenney Afterschool Fund President. "By collaborating with the YMCA, we can ensure that more at-risk children across the nation have access to afterschool programs that will inspire them to be smart, strong and socially responsible."

YMCAs are a leading resource for parents seeking a safe, enriching place for their children to go after school. YMCA Afterschool programs focus on the holistic development of youth, including promotion of health and well-being, social skill development, emotional development, artistry, character development, sports and service. In Springfield, the YMCA serves more than 3,000 children at 44 sites.

"This generous support from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund strengthens our efforts to give working parents peace of mind, and their children a place to thrive," said Ashley French, executive Director of the childcare branch. "Ozarks Regional YMCA has a longstanding commitment to youth development, and providing a safe, enriching place for young people to go after school."

About the JCPenney Afterschool Fund: The JCPenney afterschool fund is a charitable organization committed to providing children in need with access to life-enriching afterschool programs that inspire children to be smart, strong and socially responsible. To date, JCPenney and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund have contributed more than \$70 million to local afterschool programs in every JCPenney community through partnerships with YMCA of the USA, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, National 4-H and United Way of America. For more information, visit www.jcpennyafterschool.org for more information.

The Ozarks Regional YMCA has served the community for over 121 years and has over 20,000 members in the association to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. The Ozarks Regional YMCA consists of eight branches including, The Ozark Mountain Branch in Hollister, Bolivar/ Dallas County, Monett/Cassville, Lebanon, Camp Wakonda, Child Care and two facilities in Springfield.

Corporate Offices
417 S. Jefferson
Springfield, Mo 65806
p. 417.862.7456
f. 417.866.9527

Roy Blunt YMCA of Bolivar
1710 W. Broadway
Bolivar, Mo 65613
p. 417.326.3100
f. 417.326.3106

Cassville YMCA
408 State Hwy 248
Cassville, Mo 65625
p. 417.846.1535
f. 417.847.6654

Child Care Branch
417 S. Jefferson
Springfield, Mo 65806
p. 417.862.7456
f. 417.862.4004

Pat Jones YMCA
1901 E. Republic Road
Springfield, Mo 65804
p. 417.881.1599
f. 417.881.3595

Monett Area YMCA
205 Euclid Street
Monett, Mo 65708
p. 417.235.8213
f. 417.235.8731

Ozark Mountain Family YMCA
175 Industrial Drive
Hollister, Mo 65672
p. 417.337.YMCA
f. 417.332.1012

G. Pearson Ward YMCA
417 S. Jefferson
Springfield, Mo 65806
p. 417.862.7456
f. 417.862.4004

Camp Wakonda
22237 Lawrence 2080
Ash Grove, Mo 65604
p. 417.491.4206
f. 417.491.4208

Dallas County Area YMCA
932 W. Main
Buffalo, Mo 65622
p. 417.345.1116
f. 417.345.1353