



**YMCA
of
South Palm Beach County
News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 06-28-06

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CARIDAD CHILDREN FIND SUMMER SOLACE AT YMCA

DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach Hosts Children at Summer Camp

(Boynton Beach, Fla.) -- When the Caridad Center, which serves farm workers, laborers and the working poor of Palm Beach County, found out that they would not be able to provide summer camp for the more than 40 children of local migrant workers, they turned to the DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach for help.

Thanks to a grant from St.Gergory's Episcopal Church and additional support from the YMCA's Partners with Youth program, more than half of these children, ages 5 to 12, are attending the summer camp at the YMCA.

"The Y has been there for us before with swim lessons," said Scarlett Fave, social services coordinator for Caridad. "The parents are so grateful to have a safe place for the children and they don't have to worry about them running around unsupervised during the day."

Six-year old Jennifer Sandoval and her mother, Maria, live in a trailer near canals where alligators are sometimes found. "I appreciate the camp because I'm afraid to let my daughter play outside," said Maria.

"It's so much fun," echoed Jennifer.

"I'm enchanted," added Juri Torrico, age 6, whose mother, Marina, is thrilled to protect her son from the summer's wicked heat. "It's a blessing, because I don't have to worry about Juri being in the heat," she said about the YMCA camp. "He loves the other kids and likes doing things at camp."

According to Beverly Johnson, associate executive director, who is supervising the Y's summer camp program, accommodating the Caridad kids exemplifies the mission of the Y to reach out to the community.

"We build strong kids, strong families and strong communities by meeting critical needs in the neighborhoods that surround our branches," she said. "Thanks to generous gifts from our donors, we are able to give children, who would not otherwise be able to participate in Y activities, life-long enriching experiences."

Caridad children will be participating in the YMCA summer camp through the end of July.

As part of the nation's largest community service organization, the YMCA of South Palm Beach County serves more than 50,000 community residents annually. Through its locations in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach, the YMCA offers an expansive menu of on-site and outreach programs that help the entire family enjoy healthier, more active lifestyles. Activities include sports programs, summer camps, preschool, after school programs, a variety of exercise classes, senior wellness programs, water and land aerobics, yoga and pilates, and a state-of-the-art workout facility featuring the computerized Fitness Advisor virtual workout partner, among many more offerings.

The YMCA serves all people including those unable to pay fees. Membership fees, grants and contributions from individuals and corporations fund its \$9 million annual budget.

For more information about the YMCA, call the Boca facility at (561) 395-9622 or the Boynton Beach branch at (561) 738-9622 or visit www.ymcaspbc.org. For information on how to support the Partners with Youth program or other YMCA programs, call Vicki Pugh at (561) 237-0929.

Founded in 1989 by Caridad Asencio and Connie Berry, The Caridad Center and The Migrant Association of South Florida provides free medical and dental care to a large population of migrant farm workers, laborers and the working poor of Palm Beach County through the dedicated work of more than 500 licensed professional and community volunteers. For more information, visit www.caridad.org.

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