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Contact:

Libby Moon
Drowning Prevention Coordinator
YMCA of South Palm Beach County
561-237-0950
LMoon@ymcaspbcc.org

YMCA of South Palm Beach County Receives 2021 Grant Funding From USA Swimming Foundation

Grant supports efforts to offer free or reduced-cost swim lessons

South Palm Beach County, FL - The YMCA of South Palm Beach County was chosen as one of 67 from the USA Swimming Foundation's nationwide network of swim lesson providers to receive grant money in early 2021. The grant award will go toward Y's Drowning Prevention Program's continued efforts to provide free or reduced-cost swim lessons. The USA Swimming Foundation has awarded a total of \$507,618 to programs across the country who will provide swim lessons to an estimated 13,800 children.

Drowning is still the number one cause of death for children under age five in Palm Beach County. "While we cannot change our environment, we can remove its biggest threat," states Libby Moon, Drowning Prevention Coordinator for the YMCA of South Palm Beach County.

The Y has taken on a new public health approach to drowning prevention by expanding its life-saving water safety campaign with a specific focus on youth from low-income households. "We are so happy to have been given the opportunity to teach more children about water safety, as well as their families how to be safe around water," adds Moon.

The YMCA of South Palm Beach County's drowning prevention program, Safety Around the Water, reduces the risk of drowning in children and has been taught to over 10,000 youth in South Palm Beach County.

The USA Swimming Foundation vetted 243 applications through a competitive annual review process and chose 67 programs to receive funding.

"It's an incredible feeling to know that USA Swimming Foundation funding will be used to create a valuable swimming experience for thousands of children who may not have had the opportunity to learn how to swim," Scott Usher, Director of Development for the USA Swimming Foundation said. "We are thrilled with the depth of this year's swim lesson provider applicant pool and we couldn't be prouder to support these life-saving opportunities for children across the country. We owe a tremendous thank you to our partners and donors who continue to make a difference in our mission of *saving lives and building champions.*"

Millions of children have received the lifesaving gift of swim lessons through the USA Swimming Foundation's network of swim lesson providers, comprised of more than 1,500 qualified lesson

providers across the nation. Since 2007, more than \$6 million has been awarded in learn-to-swim grants. To learn more, visit www.usaswimming.org/foundation.

For a full list of 2021 USA Swimming Foundation grant recipients or to donate to the Foundation, please visit www.usaswimming.org/foundation

For more information on the YMCA of South Palm Beach County's Drowning Prevention Program visit: ymcasbpc.org or contact Libby Moon, Lmoon@ymcasbpc.org, 561-237-0950.

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About the YMCA

Driven by its founding mission, the YMCA has served as a leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening community for more than 175 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. The YMCA of South Palm Beach County serves as a community anchor in Palm Beach County by enriching lives and strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA of South Palm Beach County is comprised of The Peter Blum Family YMCA of Boca Raton, The DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach, THE LAB: YMCA Leadership Academy, and the YMCA@901 NCCI. For more information, please visit YMCASPBC.org.