



Michael Digh

YMCA of Greensboro

336.854.8410 ext. 113

michael.digh@ymcagreensboro.org

Keisha Thomas

YMCA of Greensboro

336.854.8410 ext. 112

keisha.thomas@ymcagreensboro.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hayes-Taylor Y Receives Ronald McDonald House Charities® of N.C. Grants

Dollars to be used locally for family fitness

Greensboro, N.C., February 19, 2010—In its effort toward fostering strong kids and communities, the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA recently received a generous contribution that will aid in the development of fitness and family programs. The YMCA was awarded a joint grant in the amount of \$33,500 from Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina (www.rmhcfn.org) and Ronald McDonald House Charities Global (www.rmhc.org). Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina awarded an initial amount of \$16,750, and the global organization of Ronald McDonald House Charities awarded a matching grant of \$16,750.

The donated funds will be used to establish “Families Interacting Together” (Project FIT), which is an interactive and mobile fitness program geared toward helping children and their families improve health and fitness levels and develop healthier lifestyles. The grant funds will support the purchase of and feature dynamic activities, supplies, and game systems such as mobile Nintendo Wii Student Exercise Stations and Dance Dance Revolution Exercise Systems, which function through interactive movement and require players to be highly mobile.

“Due to obesity-related health complications, many believe that if this trend continues to increase, this current generation of young people could be the first in American history to live shorter lives than their parents,” said Andrea Wright, associate executive director at the Hayes-Taylor YMCA. “This grant will help continue our YMCA mission of community outreach and fitness education.”

The equipment provided through the grant will be beneficial in encouraging families to get up and start moving on a regular basis. The grant will also serve as a tool to bring families together.

“We are grateful for the grant,” said Larry Burnett, executive director of the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA. “It gives us the opportunity to get families involved in a physical fitness program.”

“We are always looking for opportunities to give back to the community. This grant will help address the childhood obesity issue in our community” says Debra Smith, a Greensboro McDonald’s owner who helped to secure the grant.

For 120 years, the mission of the YMCA of Greensboro is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. We build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

###