

Westchester Family YMCA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Westchester Family YMCA Receives Grant of \$20,000 from The William H. Hannon Foundation to Support P.L.A.Y. -- Physical Learning Activities for Youth.

Grant will fund physical education program in five LAUSD elementary schools in Westchester and Playa del Rey.

The Westchester Family YMCA was awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the William H. Hannon Foundation to support its innovative P.L.A.Y -- Physical Learning Activities for Youth -- program in five local LAUSD elementary schools. Thanks to the Foundation's generosity, approximately 3,000 students and their families at Kentwood Elementary School, Loyola Village Elementary School, Paseo del Rey Natural Science Magnet School, Westport Elementary School and Cowan Elementary School will continue to reap the benefits of greater physical activity and healthy living education offered through the program.

Introduced at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year in response to budget cuts in education and growing rates of childhood obesity, the Westchester Family YMCA's P.L.A.Y. program provides an age-appropriate curriculum that teaches students in grades K through 5th grade the fundamental skills necessary for them to realize the importance of physical activity and healthy eating and to take this knowledge with them into the adulthood. P.L.A.Y. increases physical fitness in youth by focusing on teamwork, fun, fellowship and skill building. It also nurtures peer support and family involvement, partners with teachers for training and classroom curriculum development, and contributes to a comprehensive school experience for students that includes well-being.

"This grant brings together two institutions my uncle cared deeply about—the Westchester Family YMCA and public schools in the community. With budget cuts hampering our public schools, the YMCA's program brings a much needed resource at a critical time. We are proud to continue to be a supporter of the Westchester YMCA," said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation and a



member of the Foundation's Board of Directors since its founding in 1983 by her late uncle William Hannon.

“We feel extremely fortunate to share a commitment to strengthening one of the most important foundations of our community, our children's health and fitness, with the William H. Hannon Foundation,” said Westchester Family YMCA Executive Director Lisa D'Angelo. “Thanks to the Foundation's generosity and vision, the Westchester Family YMCA has been able to provide the residents of our area with vital programming and equipment to help them pursue healthy lives.”

The William H. Hannon Foundation was founded in 1983 by the late Catholic philanthropist and real estate developer William H. Hannon. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Hannon returned to Los Angeles to develop residential communities and commercial shopping centers across Southern California. Today, the Foundation carries on Mr. Hannon's goals of supporting Catholic churches and schools, as well as hospitals and social service organizations that are focused on improving the lives of people in communities Mr. Hannon helped build.

Founded in 1952, the Westchester Family YMCA is located in the heart of Westchester and serves its neighboring communities of Playa del Rey, Ladera Heights, El Segundo, Inglewood, Playa Vista, Marina del Rey, Lennox and Venice. Programs and services provided by the Y, in addition to the P.L.A.Y. program, include child care, swim lessons, sports leagues, after school enrichment programs, parent/child programs, and daily fitness classes for everyone from toddlers to seniors – all focusing on strengthening the foundations of our community. And because of this commitment to the community, no one is turned away from the YMCA because of their inability to pay.

For more information on the Westchester Family YMCA and its P.L.A.Y. program in the local schools, please contact Kimberly Hoffman at the Westchester Family YMCA at (310) 670-4316.

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