



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YMCA OF EASTERN UNION COUNTY'S FIVE POINTS BRANCH AWARDED
2007 JCPENNEY AFTERSCHOOL FUND GRANT**

*YMCA to provide \$20,000 in financial assistance to local families in need who require
school age child care at schools in Union and Kenilworth*

(Union, NJ) – The YMCA of Eastern Union County is pleased to announce that its Five Points Branch has been awarded a 2007 JCPenney Afterschool Fund grant in the amount of \$10,938. The Five Points Branch is one of 320 YMCA's nationwide to be selected to receive this grant and will match the award with funds from our operating budget and Annual Strong Kids Campaign to provide over \$20,000 in scholarships to local families in need who would otherwise be unable to send their children to the YMCA's afterschool program or will be unable to continue participating due to increased financial hardship. The first 19 children to receive a scholarship using this funding will also receive a JC Penney gift card to be used to purchase school clothing and supplies.

As part of the largest not-for-profit child care provider in the United States, the YMCA helps build strong kids, strong families and strong communities by providing affordable care to low and moderate income families who require child care in order to work, go to school, or begin a job training program. During the 2006-2007 school year, the Five Points Branch provided school age child care to 509 children ages 5-12 years old.

In conjunction with the Union and Kenilworth schools, the Five Points Branch offers high quality school age child care programs that offer a balance between academic enrichment and healthy, recreational activities for children. Daily curriculum includes creative, educational and recreational activities, a nutritional snack, as well as a study period in which children can receive homework assistance. All program activities aim to teach and reinforce the YMCA's four core values of honesty, respect, responsibility and caring while encouraging the development of a healthy lifestyle.

The YMCA's early and afterschool care programs take place in the Kenilworth and Union elementary schools with early care available from 7:00-9:00 AM and afterschool care from 3:00-6:30 PM Monday-Friday, when school is in session.

“Many of our early and after care participants live in single parent households or a home in which both parents must work more than one job to provide essential resources to their family,” said Melynda Mileski, Associate Branch Executive. “We are so pleased that the JCPenney Afterschool Fund grant will give us the ability to provide several additional scholarships to families who have either been unable to utilize our program in the past or can no longer afford this service.”

Families who are interested in applying for a YMCA scholarship must complete a financial assistance application and attach all required documentation. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund grant will only be used to provide financial assistance for school age childcare program operated by the Five Points Branch. YMCA financial assistance applications are available at the Five Point Branch Welcome Center and on our web site at www.ymcaeuc.org.

The YMCA of Eastern Union County is a community-based organization committed to building healthy lives through programs that strengthen the spirit, mind and body for people of all ages, religions and cultures. Through our three branches located in Elizabeth, Union and Rahway, the YMCA currently serves 18,000 members. The Five Points Branch serves nearly 12,200 of our total membership in our Five Points facility, located in Union.

Should you need any additional information on the YMCA of Eastern Union County, the Five Points Branch and/or our programs, please feel free to contact the Five Points Branch at (908) 688-9622.

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