



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMCA PROVIDES FREE WEEK OF OVERNIGHT CAMP TO CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED PARENTS & DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSONNEL

Youth Must Write Letter about How They Will Pay if Forward

For a second year, the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis is offering a free week of overnight camp at its Flat Rock River YMCA Camp, St. Paul, Indiana, to youth of unemployed parents or active deployed military personnel. The scholarships will be open to the first 300 youth who qualify and is a \$500 value, per child, being offered at no cost to families.

The YMCA is also asking campers to write a letter, in their own handwriting, about what they learned at overnight camp last summer (for returning campers) or what they hope to learn this summer (for new campers). Included in the letter should be ways that the camper will **Pay It Forward** – how will they give something to or serve others “in exchange” for receiving a free scholarship to camp. Examples may include helping an elderly neighbor, volunteering at church, assisting a teacher with a special project, etc.

Flat Rock River YMCA Camp will held June 13 – July 25 and is designed for children, ages seven to 15. Since 1948, Flat Rock River YMCA Camp has been helping young people develop life-long skills such as teamwork, patience, respecting differences and becoming better people. Campers have an opportunity to make new friends and enjoy activities such as horseback riding, rock climbing and swimming.

“Many families are still faced with the effects of our struggling economy,” said Eric Ellsworth, President/CEO, YMCA of Greater Indianapolis. “By offering a free week of camp to area children is just another opportunity for our organization to respond to the needs in our community,” added Ellsworth.

Registration for YMCA Day Camps are also being accepted. Day Camps provide youth with traditional summer fun in a safe and positive environment. YMCA Day Camps are located at 39 sites throughout greater Indianapolis and early drop-off and pick-up options are available for working parents. Scholarships are available for families who qualify.

The community can help send a child to camp this summer by donating to the YMCA Kids to Camp Campaign. With so many families experiencing economic hardships, additional support is needed more than ever before.

For more information about YMCA camps or to donate to the Kids to Camp Campaign, visit www.indymca.org or call 317-266-9622.

The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis serves more than 166,000 people in diverse communities throughout greater Indianapolis. The YMCA brings together young and old, men and women, people of all faiths, backgrounds and incomes. Last year, the YMCA provided nearly \$6 million in scholarships, subsidies, and under-written programs and community services in low income neighborhoods. Through 13 branches and in collaboration with more than 200 churches, schools, and other community groups and organizations, the YMCA is also able to extend its program opportunities throughout Central Indiana and into the heart of urban neighborhoods. For more information about YMCA programs and services visit www.indymca.org.

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