

Release at Will

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YMCA Receives \$20,000 From Toyota

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America recently awarded the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati a \$20,000 grant for its Black Achievers program.

In its 30 year history, more than 4000 area adult volunteers have worked through the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Black Achievers program to make a positive impact on over 5000 teens, mostly in urban areas. The year-round college readiness program includes test preparation, training in college preparedness and study habits, mentoring, tutoring, and college tours. Adult mentors help students to explore their interests, develop life skills and broaden their resources as they work toward goals.

"It's so important for young people to have exposure to opportunities and guidance in pursuing them. Many of those who have participated in the program as teens have gone on to pursue college degrees and careers, and have even come back to volunteer," said Toni Miles YMCA Black Achievers executive director. "We couldn't do it without the support of such committed companies as Toyota."

The YMCA is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons, teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness. With 60 locations, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is also the largest provider of child care programs, that in 2007, served nearly 10,000 kids on YMCA scholarships. The annual Strong Kids Campaign helps make that possible.

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