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## **Ellicott-Masten And Delaware Family YMCA's Able to Aid Local Families Thanks to JCPenney Grant**

**(Buffalo, NY)** – The Ellicott-Masten and Delaware Family YMCA's will now be able to provide financial assistance to an additional 25 families thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. The funding, which will be used to support families in need of financial assistance for YMCA School Age Child Care programs, comes at a crucial time. Area families are feeling the repercussions of cuts to funding allocated by the Erie County Department of Social Services. As a result, many families will be in need of child care, both as a result of expense and because providers may go out of business.

“The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is firmly committed to supporting youth-serving organizations, like the YMCA, that are dedicated to providing safe, meaningful programs during the crucial hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., when studies show that youth are at a greater risk of involvement in crime, drug abuse and other destructive behaviors,” said Jodi Gibson, president of the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. “By collaborating with the YMCA, we can ensure that more at-risk children across the nation have access to afterschool programs that will inspire them to be smart, strong and socially responsible.”

Locally founded in 1852, YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body. The YMCAs focus on health and wellness is reflected in the variety of programs that we offer for all ages and abilities. Additionally collaborations with insurance carriers such as Univera, Independent Health, and BlueCross BlueShield provide the opportunity for those wanting to take the first step toward a healthier lifestyle to do so at the YMCA.

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YMCA Receives JCPenney Funding  
Page 2 of 2

A not for profit organization, YMCA Buffalo Niagara serves over 100,000 people annually through the seven branches located throughout Western New York, YMCA Camp Weona, as well as at over 40 community based program sites. This tremendous outreach would not be possible without the support of our volunteers. From summer camp, preschool and school age child care to SilverSneakers®, youth sports programs and swimming lessons-there is something for everyone at the YMCA. For more information visit us online at [www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org](http://www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org)

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