



For Immediate Release: 1/18/10
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YMCA Buffalo Niagara Able to Offer Assistance During Child Care Subsidy Crisis

(Buffalo, NY) - Recently the Erie County Department of Social Services has had to scale back a state program aimed at providing child care subsidies to low-income families. Eligibility for the program has been reduced from those earning 200% of the federal poverty level to those earning 125%. The reduction would in turn eliminate current subsidies to more than 1,500 local children, or 42 percent of current recipients. As a result, many are concerned that families will be in need of child care, both as a result of expense and because providers may go out of business.

At the YMCA, we are able to help support families who are struggling with this crisis by offering financial assistance. The YMCA is able to do this through our annual Strong Kids Campaign. The YMCA believes that no one should be turned away due to the inability to pay the full amount of a program and therefore thanks to generous donations made to the Strong Kids Campaign we are able to aid families in their time of need. This is our promise to our community.

The YMCA knows that your child's education and character development are of the utmost importance to you. YMCA programs are ideal as they are conveniently located in your community, often times right in your child's school or at a local YMCA facility. We offer both Preschool programming as well as School Age Child Care for children ages 5-12 years old. Children will thrive in this setting with opportunities to make new friends, participate in group activities, get help with their homework, and more! Preschool children will engage in field trips, dramatic play, learning centers, art, and more!

YMCA programming is flexible and affordable thanks to the Strong Kids Campaign. Both AM and PM programs are offered and there are over 33 school age child care and eight preschool sites to choose from! Parents can rest assured that their children are in a safe and caring environment being cared for by trained, professional staff.

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To learn more about how you may apply for financial assistance through the YMCA, please contact any of our branches or visit our Web site at www.ymcabuffaloniagara.org.

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.

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

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