



***** MEDIA ALERT*****

FLORIDA PANTHERS FOUNDATION & YMCA PARTNER TO MAKE KIDS SAFER DURING WATER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Press Conference & Swimsuit Giveaway Support Drowning Prevention in South Florida

WHAT: The YMCA of South Florida and the Florida Panthers Foundation will hold a press conference to announce a new partnership around water safety and drowning prevention as South Florida kicks-off summer water activities during the Memorial Day Weekend.

The Florida Panthers Foundation awarded the YMCA of South Florida a Community Champions Grant for \$25,000 on Saturday, Feb. 23, during the 2018-19 season. This Community Champions Grant supports the YMCA of South Florida's Swim for Jenny drowning prevention program. As part of the grant, thus far, the program provided more than 175 underserved children in Broward County with free swimming and water safety lessons, and drowning prevention information at YMCA locations.

The Press Conference will also include a Free Swimsuit Distribution to kids. The YMCA understands that there are many reasons kids do not learn to swim. Not all families are able to provide proper attire, so earlier this year, the YMCA held a swimsuit drive to help families in need. Kids from the community will be able to choose a donated swimsuit.

WHEN: Thursday, May 23, 2019, 3 pm

WHERE: **Greater Hollywood YMCA Family Center**
3161 Taft Street, Hollywood, FL 33021 | 954 989 9622

WHY: Fatal drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years old. Broward and Miami-Dade counties lead the nation in drowning deaths among small children. Since 2010, more than 100 children have died in South Florida due to drowning.

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About Community Champions Grant Program:

The Community Champions Grant Program allows charitable organizations throughout South Florida to request financial support for their programs and initiatives. Through this grant program, Panthers ownership has committed \$5 million over 5 years to the local community. At each of the 41 home games throughout the season, the Foundation will recognize and award one grant for up to \$25,000 to a local organization. To learn more or apply for a grant, please visit FloridaPanthers.com/GrantApplication.

About the YMCA of South Florida

The Y is a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Every day, the Y works hard to build healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities through over 200 afterschool, preschool, special needs, sports, camp and youth programs, family centers, and senior health outreach sites. To learn more, visit www.ymcaofsouthflorida.org, connect on Facebook or Twitter, or call a Y near you.