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YMCA of South Florida recognized for innovation in drowning prevention and water safety by Water Smart Broward

[FORT LAUDERDALE, March 10, 2017] – On March 3, the YMCA of South Florida received a Drowning Prevention Innovation Award from Water Smart Broward during its first South Florida Water Safety Symposium covering Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties for its leadership in drowning prevention in the South Florida community.

Throughout the year, the YMCA of South Florida provides more than **3,000 free swim lessons**, promotes water safety by encouraging family and friends to pledge to be Water Watchers (making sure kids are being watched while in and around water), and runs a Mobile Aquatics Program that provides free swim lessons to families in the communities where they live.

“The YMCA is proud to be recognized for the work we do,” said Sheryl A. Woods, CEO & President of the YMCA of South Florida. “Our goal is to keep kids and adults safe around the water, and our Mobile Aquatics program allows us to take swimming lessons to people where they live, removing barriers and excuses like transportation and scheduling. We’re committed to water safety and drowning prevention.”

The South Florida Water Safety Symposium was designed for first responders, child care professionals, family strengthening providers, aquatics professionals and health professionals in the Tri-county region, and was meant to bring awareness to drowning prevention and water safety, and teach leaders of all levels how to become advocates for drowning prevention.

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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.