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**YMCA OF PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORDS WITH ITS
2009 “STRONG KIDS CAMPAIGN”**

YMCA Education & Technology Center Was Integral to the Success

PHILADELPHIA – May 2009 – On May 4, 2009 at the Carousel House in Fairmount Park, the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity celebrated the unprecedented success of its 2009 Strong Kids Campaign. The YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity set the ambitious goal of raising \$2 million, which was not only met, but surpassed by \$45,000. This remarkable accomplishment represents a nearly \$300,000 increase over last year’s pledges and exceeds all prior years of annual support campaigns.

The Strong Kids Campaign is at the heart of the YMCA’s financial assistance program. The Y is committed to ensuring that every child, teen, and adult has the opportunity to benefit from its programs and services regardless of their ability to pay. Through the Strong Kids Campaign the Y raises funds that are used exclusively for financial assistance. Last year the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity distributed more than \$2.5million dollars in assistance to approximately 12,000 children and families.

The YMCA’s Education & Technology Center contributed to the success of the campaign by raising \$9,512. The Education & Technology Center profited from the hard work and enthusiasm of the many volunteers who went above and beyond to reach out to the community for support. One volunteer in particular, Mr. Harry Santiago Perez, brought particular motivation to the campaign and was honored as the Center’s “Most Valuable Campaigner” at the May 4th event.

“The YMCA Education & Technology Center’s 2009 Strong Kids Campaign is inspiring,” said Executive Director Sandy Harrill. “For our first year in the Strong kids Campaign I am thrilled with our results. I congratulate and thank everyone who helped us towards this accomplishment and we’re looking forward to doing even better in next year’s campaign.”

Located at 125 S. 9th St., Ste. 502, the Adult Education & Technology Center helps adults to reach their educational and professional goals through literacy and GED classes, ESL instruction, and basic job and computer skills training. For more information about the Adult Education & Technology Center call 215-400-2100.

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