



Media Contact:
Emily Schmidt
504.324.4242
emily@gambelcommunications.com

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Editor's Note: Photo attached

Young Leadership Council Honors RECreate as 'Project of 25 Years' *Youth Recreation Project Returns this Fall with 10-Week Session Starting September 10*

New Orleans, LA (August 2011) – The [Young Leadership Council](#) (YLC) honored [RECreate](#), a youth recreation program, with a special "Project of 25 Years Award" at its 25th Anniversary Role Model Gala August 13, 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel because of the project's long-term success in the community. Current project leaders, Kelley Bagayoko and Wesley Palmisano, accepted the award.

RECreate offers high quality, accessible and educational recreation activities to youth ages seven to 14 in the Central City area. The program initially kicked off in 1991, but was discontinued after Hurricane Katrina. Because of the program's popularity and success, the YLC brought it back this year in honor of the anniversary. RECreate's **latest 10-week session** will begin **September 10 at 9:30 a.m.** at the **Harmony Oaks Community Center and A.L. Davis Park**.

"We chose RECreate as the Project of 25 Years because of the significant effects the project has had on countless number of children, on YLC member-volunteers and on the Central City community over the years," said Joseph I. Giarrusso III, president of the YLC. "It was one of the YLC's longest running projects before the storm and represents another strong example of something positive that has returned to the city post-Katrina."

RECreate offers a basketball component consisting of coached practices, drills, games and a tournament. A Cultural Awareness Class teaches the history of the Central City Area, Mardi Gras Indian tradition, African American history, African dance and black Greek step. Each activity includes a literacy component wherein the group reads an age appropriate text relevant to their chosen recreation activity.

"We kicked off the project for the second time in 25 years in March and had an incredible turnout of at least 40 to 50 children on the weekends," said Bagayoko. "We were blown away by the interest and had a blast getting to know each one of the participants. It's extremely rewarding for our volunteers to see the positive influence they have on the kids and we're looking forward to another great session this fall."

For more information about RECreate and to get involved, please contact Bagayoko and Palmisano at recreate@youngleadershipcouncil.org. Additional photos from the project are available upon request.

The YLC currently has 13 active community projects, more than 1,600 member-volunteers ranging between 21 and 42 years old, a 25-member board of directors and four staff. For more information about the YLC or to make a donation to the organization, please call (504) 585-1500 or visit www.youngleadershipcouncil.org.

Pictured in photos:

RECreate 68.jpg – YLC members, Tiffany Johasen and Paul Zimmer, work with children in Central City for the RECreate basketball program in March 2011.

RECreate 28.jpg – Kevin Ferguson, a YLC member, coaches local children from Central City participating in the RECreate basketball program in March 2011.

The Young Leadership Council is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans, creating

a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.