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For Immediate Release

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YMCA AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS PROVIDE LEARNING ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

(New Haven, CT August 8, 2013) Providing youth with opportunities to continue to learn and engage in meaningful activities at the end of the school day can boost their academic success. To help motivate and inspire kids to learn, branches of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA are offering afterschool programs to school-aged children. The Y's afterschool programs combine academics with play and offer a caring and safe environment for youth who would otherwise be left unsupervised.

During the school year, 15.1 million U.S. children are left unsupervised after 3 p.m., according to the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness advocacy organization. With the start of the new school year, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA encourages parents/caregivers to make sure that children are involved in safe, educational experiences after school.

"The combination of enrichment and extended learning opportunities is essential to increasing children's success in school," said Christian Engle, Central Connecticut Coast YMCA Senior Vice President and COO. "YMCA afterschool programs promote a love for learning, social and emotional development, healthy choices, character and creativity, and provide children with an extra support system through positive role models to help them achieve and reach their full potential."

Studies show participation in afterschool programs help boost school attendance and academic performance and reduces gaps in academic achievement among children from disadvantaged households.

In the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA afterschool programs youth receive homework help, healthy snacks and a chance to participate in fitness and sports programs. They can also explore arts & crafts, work on community service projects and meet new friends. Financial assistance is available to those in need, to ensure every child and teen has the opportunity to learn and grow at the Y.

For more information about all the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA afterschool programs, please visit cccymca.org or call 203 777 9622.

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About the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is a community service agency dedicated to addressing community needs that enrich families, promote health and wellness, develop youth and build self-esteem for all. YMCA membership and participation is open to everyone regardless of race or ethnic background, religious preference or ability to pay. In 2012, the CCC YMCA served 85,000 kids, families and adults in twenty-five towns and cities. Approximately 32,000 youth participated in child care, youth sports, summer camping and Youth in Government programs. 7,600 children took advantage of the Y's instructional swimming lessons; 34,500 youth and adults participated in health, wellness, education, physical activity and diabetes prevention programs and services. 1,700 people were served through one of our housing programs. The CCC YMCA also provided \$3 million in direct financial assistance to approximately 6,000 children, individuals and families. The Central Connecticut Coast Y is based in downtown New Haven with eleven Y branches in Greater New Haven and Greater Bridgeport while also operating YMCA Camp Hi-Rock, a 1,000 acre residential and day camp in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts. **W** cccymca.org **P** 203 777 9622