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YMCA of Greater Erie

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

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PRESCHOOLERS TO PLANT "SPAGHETTI GARDEN"

***PNC Employee Volunteers Join Preschoolers for
National Week of the Young Child Celebration***

Erie, PA - A group of 22 preschoolers will plant a garden at the Downtown YMCA, 31 West 10th Street, on Tuesday, April 13 from 9:5-10:15 a.m. The garden will eventually become fixings for a spaghetti dinner at the end of the growing season. Spaghetti Gardens are an excellent way for children to learn about growing food and gain appreciation for how their attention and patience results in a special meal with new friends.

This activity is the first of three when children and volunteers plant small starter plants such as peppers, onions, tomatoes and lettuce. In May, volunteers will return to help transplant starter plants into the ground, and in the August the mature plants will be harvested. A spaghetti dinner will be prepared and shared by all.

Week of the Young Child is celebrated across the country by hundreds of local organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children. The local event is sponsored by *PNC Grow Up Great*, a 10-year, \$100 million initiative founded by The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC) to help prepare children from birth to age five - with a focus on underserved children - for success in school and life.

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About the YMCA of Greater Erie: The mission of the YMCA of Greater Erie is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Integral to all YMCA programs is character development and developmental assets. **Character** Development is based on the four YMCA core **values**-caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

For 150 years, the YMCA of Greater Erie has been dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities with a mission to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all it. Is also the belief of the YMCA that no one should ever be denied services because of inability to pay. Additionally, our income-based membership ensures that everyone can belong to the YMCA.

Our four convenient locations throughout the Erie region offer programs for all ages from our creative and fun youth sports programs to a wide variety of active older adultsqclasses. Our award winning early learning care for children is offered at twenty locations throughout Erie County. A fit lifestyle and a philosophy dedicated to honesty, caring, respect and responsibility, the YMCA of Greater Erie celebrates a century and a half of services to our community.

To learn more visit www.ymcaerie.org.

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