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J. Seward Johnson, Sr. and his Trust Award Princeton Young Achievers Program an Endowment Gift of \$250,000

Princeton, January 13, 2012 – The Princeton Young Achievers program, which was recently merged with the Princeton Family YMCA, received a year-end contribution of \$250,000 from the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust to create a special endowment in support of the Princeton Young Achievers mission. "The arrival of this Legacy Grant is a tremendous credit to those who have worked so hard to create, sustain and enhance PYA over the past 18 years and to our future with the YMCA, where we have found an enduring home for our continuing service to this community," remarked Clayton Marsh who served as PYA's board chairman for more than five years, and is now a member of the YMCA's board of directors.

Princeton Young Achievers was founded in 1993, and provides academic support to children in Princeton's public and affordable housing communities at the Pannell Center, Littlebrook School, and the Crimmins Learning Center. PYA employs 14 part-time teachers, including 4 site coordinators, has a core of more than 20 active volunteers, and a broad base of community and institutional support. Several community organizations, among them Princeton Community Housing, the Housing Authority of the Borough of Princeton, and the Arts Council of Princeton, have been key partners and remained committed to supporting the PYA mission since its beginnings.

The Princeton Family YMCA was founded in 1908, and today it focuses on three areas: Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. In addition to the Princeton Young Achievers program that serves children in grades K through 5, the Y offers the Y Scholars group mentoring program for youth in grades 6 to 8. "Nurturing the potential of kids and helping them grow and develop is central to the Y's work locally and around the country," said David Sandahl, Chairman of the Princeton Family YMCA, "We are very pleased to share what the Y has to offer with our PYA students."

"This fall, the transition went very smoothly, and our program was up and running without interruption for our students and families, which was our primary goal." added Ann Vershbow, Education Director at the Princeton Family YMCA who worked with PYA prior to the merger. Before coming to the Princeton area, Vershbow most recently served as principal of the Ethical Culture School in New York and brings more than 30 years of experience as an educator to the role. "This gift will help us build on a proven and effective program, and we couldn't be more thrilled!"



Pictured with PYA students at the Marcy Crimmins Learning Center located at the Princeton Community Village are (l. to r.) Clayton Marsh, former PYA President and now YMCA board member, David C. Sandahl, Chairman, Princeton Family YMCA and Ann Vershbow, Education Director.

The Boards of Directors of the Princeton Family YMCA and Princeton Young Achievers (PYA) voted unanimously last spring to combine their resources to guarantee the continuance of a highly-regarded academic support and enrichment program for children of Princeton's public and affordable housing communities. Officials from both organizations noted that the combination serves to focus resources on services rather than administrative overhead.

"There are so many wonderful synergies between PYA and the Y," added Kate Bech, CEO of the Y, "we are very deeply grateful to the Trustees of the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Foundation for sharing our vision and investing in our future. It means a great deal to this community." For volunteer opportunities or to make a contribution, please contact Denise Soto, Development and Communications Director, at 609-497-9622 x209 or dsoto@princetonymca.org.

To learn more, visit princetonymca.org or contact Denise Soto, Development and Communications Associate, at 609-497-9622 x209

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The Princeton Family YMCA is a charitable, cause-driven organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. For more information about YMCA programs visit princetonymca.org or call 609-497-9622