



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amy McNeil, Director of Communications
E-mail: a.mcneil@ymcanwnc.org
Phone: 336-777-6252
Fax: 336-777-6345

YMCA of Northwest North Carolina Receives \$58,000 Grant from Dell Foundation to Enhance Academic Performance at Philo Magnet Middle School

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – August 8, 2008 – The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina has received a \$58,000 grant from Dell Foundation. The grant will provide tutorial software in math and reading for students at Philo Magnet Middle School to augment the Graduating Our Future initiative.

The Dell Foundation grant will allow students the opportunity to improve their skills by using educational, interactive software. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina will use the software to augment Graduating Our Future, its initiative to improve academic performance at the middle school. It has specifically targeted math and reading as the critical areas where students need improvement.

“Philo Middle School has a substantial ESL student population, so we really feel that this grant will allow students the extra practice in reading and using technology that they will need to succeed,” said Hans Rheinschild, a Language Arts Instructor at Philo Magnet Middle School. “And it will do it in a fun, exciting way.”

Heather Adams, Program Director for Graduating Our Future, believes that Dell Foundation’s gift is an investment in the community. “Students that completed the Philo Magnet Middle School’s summer Success Academy consistently said that using technology to learn was their favorite part of the two-week session,” she said. “We are excited that Dell Foundation has now made technology a permanent component. Students will be engaged in math and reading in a whole new way. By assisting these students, Dell Foundation is truly investing in our community and its future, and we greatly appreciate their generosity.”

The Graduating Our Future initiative started in January 2008 to improve graduation rates at Parkland Magnet High School since it has the lowest graduation rate in Forsyth County and falls below the state average. It will also improve student academic performance at Philo Magnet Middle School, Parkland’s feeder school. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina leads the collaborative effort with assistance from Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Services and Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools. Graduating Our Future is funded by the United Way of Forsyth County.

For more information on the Dell Foundation, please contact **XXXX**. To learn more about Graduating Our Future, please contact Heather Adams at h.adams@ymcanwnc.org or 336-777-6248. For more information on the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina and its many branches and services, visit <http://www.ymcanwnc.org> or contact Amy McNeil, Director of Communications, at a.mcneil@ymcanwnc.org or 336-777-6252.

About the Dell Foundation

The Dell Foundation, the corporate giving division of Dell Inc., is committed to contributing significantly to the quality of life in communities where Dell employees live and work. The Foundation supports innovative and effective programs that provide fundamental prerequisites to equip youth to learn and excel in a world driven by the digital economy. The Foundation supports a wide range of programs that benefit children newborn to 18 years of age in Dell’s principal US locations..

About YMCA of Northwest North Carolina

When the first YMCA was established in 1844 in London, England, its mission was to promote positive Christian values as well as healthy behaviors and activities. Today, the YMCA

Administrative Offices

Winston Tower · 301 N. Main Street, Suite 1900 · Winston-Salem, NC 27101 · 336-777-8055

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Mission: Helping people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body.

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We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.





movement has spread to more than 130 countries around the world, supporting and influencing the lives of millions of men, women and children of all backgrounds. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina association, a United Way agency, has been serving Winston-Salem and the surrounding areas since 1888. We have created a tradition of enhancing the lives of people in our community through an ever-growing list of programs and opportunities. We're proud to serve the people of Northwest North Carolina by helping to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Our association currently serves more than 51,000 YMCA members and more than 100,000 people with our memberships and programs. Learn more about the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina at <http://www.ymcanwnc.org>.

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