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Contact: Carol Anne Lajoie, Senior Director of Development and Marketing

804-980-7302

clajoie@ywcarichmond.org

New Downtown Resource for Working Parents YWCA of Richmond Launches Sick Child Care Center

(Richmond-VA) The YWCA of Richmond is now accepting enrollment for its **Under the Weather Sick Child Care Program**. Designed to offer support for working parents, the program features a partnership with ECPI's School of Nursing. "It can be really tough for any working parent when they get that call from the school to say their child is sick," explains Bobby Knost, director of the YWCA's nationally-accredited Child Development Center. "Parents never plan on having a sick child and often it can be difficult to find care last-minute. No one wants to send a sick child to school and this is a great alternative, especially for those who live near or work downtown. Your child can be cared for by nurturing medical professionals and given all the comforts of home in a safe, restful environment."

The YWCA's Sick Child Care program accepts children ages 3-12 Tuesdays through Thursdays. Enrollment is required and full and half-day rates are available. Highly contagious children are not permitted, but care for common childhood illnesses is available from 8AM to 5PM. "We recognize that, ideally, parents want to provide personal care for their sick kids. When that's simply not possible, parents can work and be at ease knowing that a licensed nurse and highly qualified staff will offer professional care within the comfort of our center," said Knost.

The program is housed in a special room within the YWCA's Child Development Center, located at 6 North 5th Street in downtown Richmond. The area designated for this program is away from the other classrooms, has a separate entrance, child-sized cots, a play area, an eating area and is arranged to ensure both safety and security in a clean, comfortable atmosphere. Additional information can be found online at www.ywcarichmond.org and parents interested in enrollment are encouraged to call or email Bobby Knost at bknost@ywcarichmond.org 804-980-7298. The Sick Child Care Program can accommodate up to eight children. Pre-registration is only \$75, the full day rate is \$55, with half days at \$30. "We are offering top of the field care at a reasonable rate," added Knost. "And as far as we know, we are the only provider of this service in downtown Richmond."

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For more than 125 years the YWCA of Richmond has been a leading force in securing an environment of change and empowerment for women and their families. Originally founded to house women coming to the city seeking factory work, the YWCA continues its mission of caring for those most in need and providing equal opportunities for women, children and families of all ages, races, and income levels.

Over the years the YWCA has modified its programs to support the emerging needs of the community, however; it has never strayed from its mission. In addition to providing accredited early childhood education programming, the YWCA remains committed to ensuring that victims of domestic and sexual violence experience rescue, recovery, and life-rebuilding programs that foster emotional, social, and economic stability.