

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2016

YWCA Chicago Launches Membership Network to support Child Care Providers heavily affected by Illinois State Budget Cuts

Chicago, IL (March 1, 2016) – This week marks the launch of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago’s Myrtle’s Club, a membership network offering training and resources for family and center-based child care providers in the region. Myrtle’s Club will offer members access to a variety of trainings designed to enhance curriculum and affordably meet licensing requirements. Business development and financial management courses will be offered to assist providers with best practices on business operations and accounting principles. Benefitting from bulk purchasing, Myrtle’s Club members will have access to discounts on commonly purchased items through centralized purchasing arrangements.

Illinois State budget cuts have impacted child care providers as many families who received subsidies through the Child Care Assistance Program were made ineligible. Some estimates conclude that 90% of families previously eligible can no longer receive state subsidies. The economic impact to child care providers has been significant as providers have been forced to close their doors or turn away families that can no longer afford to pay. Myrtle’s Club will help strengthen child care providers businesses so they can remain economically viable and allow them to provide quality child care services.

By serving child care providers in this way, the YWCA is supportive of children receiving the highest quality of care and early childhood education; parents can more confidently leave their children in these care environments while they go to work; and that the thousands of child care providers are able to build sustainable and thriving businesses.

“The YWCA is thrilled to be able to position child care providers for success as we see them as the backbone of the workforce, enabling more mothers to participate in the workforce,” said Dorri McWhorter, CEO, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. “Given the state budget stalemate, the need to support these businesses is especially critical.”

The Myrtle’s Club launch is being led by the YWCA’s Chief ReImagination Officer, Shelley Bromberek-Lambert. Shelley is an active member of National Afterschool Association where she currently serves as the Chairperson of their Board of

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Directors. Prior to joining the YWCA, she was the Chief Operating Officer for Knowledge Universe (operators of the KinderCare Learning Centers), overseeing operations across the United States and in India.

Myrtle's Club is named in honor of 30+ year YWCA employee Myrtle Thomas who has made it her life's work to support child care businesses.

To learn more about Myrtle's Club, or if you would like to speak with a participating child care provider, please contact Jacqueline Priego at 312.762.2712 or jacqueline.priego@ywcachicago.org or visit www.ywcachicago.org/myrtlesclub.

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About YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

[YWCA Metropolitan Chicago](http://www.ywcachicago.org) is the oldest and largest women's organization in the region, with a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. For 140 years, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has been committed to serving the evolving needs of women and girls. Today, we help more than 150,000 women and children annually through programs focused around three Empowerment Priorities: Achieving Freedom from Violence, Accessing Quality Education & Training and Obtaining Economic Sustainability. We are the largest provider of sexual assault support services in the state of Illinois, offering crisis intervention, counseling, prevention education and medical and legal advocacy services. We also offer career, financial management and business services to help women achieve financial stability, obtain training to enter non-traditional careers and provide young women STEM education in our TechGYRLS program. To learn more, please visit www.ywcachicago.org and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.