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CITY OF DOWNEY

# PRESS RELEASE



## Grant Between Healthy Downey Partners Furthers the Goals of Healthy Downey Initiative

*Coca-Cola Awards \$50,000 Grant to Downey Family YMCA for Health and Wellness Programs*

**Downey, CA, September 25, 2013:** In an effort to further the mission of the City's Healthy Downey initiative, Coca-Cola has awarded a grant to the Downey Family YMCA in the amount of \$50,000. Both Coca-Cola and the Downey Family YMCA are partners in Healthy Downey, a collaborative effort introduced by Mayor Mario A. Guerra to encourage and educate the community to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles.

"I am very proud of the remarkable collaboration between our Healthy Downey partners, as we are all working together to help encourage health and wellness in our community," said Mayor Mario A. Guerra. "I applaud and thank Coca-Cola for sharing this vision by helping fund Downey YMCA programs that will serve to promote a Healthier Downey. We are lucky to have such a fine organization as the Downey Family YMCA in town and I am positive they will continue to do great things to promote healthy living for our City."

This grant will support the expansion of the Downey Family YMCA Youth Fitness and Wellness program to youth in elementary schools, using organized classes for physical activity, nutrition education, motor skill development, and social connections. The program will address childhood obesity in Downey, where one in three youth is overweight or obese.

"Coca-Cola is committed to the health and wellness of our communities and recognizes the importance of working with community partners to promote healthy, active living," said Nancy Limon, West Region Director, Public Affairs and Communications, Coca-Cola North America Group. "Community organizations like the Downey YMCA are leading the charge toward a Healthier Downey and we're proud to stand alongside them in this effort."

This program will reach members of the Downey Family YMCA and youth in over ten local elementary schools. The skill-based curriculum offers youth of all levels and abilities the opportunity to become more active.

“The Downey Family YMCA is committed to fighting childhood obesity by promoting healthy living, and our Youth Fitness and Wellness program encourages youth to develop a love for physical activity,” says Anne Ullstrom, Executive Director of Downey Family YMCA. “Along with the skill-based curriculum, each program also incorporates character development, nutritional components and developmental assets that increase self-esteem and build confidence. As a nonprofit organization, we rely upon our community’s support and are very grateful to Coca-Cola for their generous contribution.”

A special presentation was held at the City Council meeting on September 24, 2013 to recognize the Coca Cola grant awarded to Downey Family YMCA.

Pictured from left to right are Downey Mayor Mario A. Guerra; Anne Ullstrom, Executive Director of Downey Family YMCA; Tom Davidson, Coca-Cola Downey Production Manager; Frank Macklin, Coca-Cola Downey Community Liaison; Nancy Limon, Coca-Cola West Region Public Affairs Director.

Proud Healthy Downey partners include:

**Downey Unified School District**  
**Coca-Cola**  
**Downey Family YMCA**  
**Apple Care Medical Group**  
**United States Army**  
**Downey Chamber of Commerce**  
**Healthy Net of California**  
**Downey Art Vibe**

**True Lasting Connections (TLC)**  
**Kaiser Permanente**  
**Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center**  
**Family Health Care Centers of Greater L.A.**  
**L.A. County Department of Public Health**  
**Downey Bicycle Coalition**  
**St. Francis Medical Center Foundation**  
**The Growing Garden**

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