

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474



**Williamsburg Township Fire Chief Presents Plaques
To Clermont Family YMCA Staff For Saving Member's Life**

As fitness staff at a YMCA learning life saving skills is an important part of the job that one hopes will never have to be used. But when Clermont Family YMCA member Anthony Wells collapsed from a heart attack, the quick reaction from well trained staff is the reason he was breathing by the time paramedics arrive – and the reason he will be celebrating the holidays this season.

For their efforts, Williamsburg Township Fire Chief Richard Mallott presented Nicole Cartone-Spears (YMCA lifeguard), Michelle Ferguson (YMCA aquatic coordinator), T.J. Petry (YMCA lifeguard), and Cindy Fussnecker (YMCA lifeguard trainer) with a plaque of appreciation.

"This is the first time we've given an award like this but the staff at the Clermont Family YMCA were exceptional. They didn't make any mistakes and they saved Anthony's life," said Chief Mallott.

Wells joined the Clermont Family YMCA this past spring after recovery from a mild stroke. A diabetic, he was taking insulin four times daily; however, since losing an additional 60 pounds and exercising regularly with the help of the YMCA, his blood work is now in the normal range.

"I told everyone, 'you know we're linked forever now'," said Wells. "This could have been a tragedy for me but instead it was a triumph. Through God working through them I'm alive today."

As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

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