

**JUDSON BOOK CLUB & AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM RECEIVE GRANT
FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Book Club now offers an enhanced enrichment opportunity to the 55 students in the Afterschool Program at the YMCA Judson Community Center.

GREENVILLE, SC, June 16, 2010 -- Every Tuesday, the "Book Club" meets at 4 pm in the half-court gym at the Judson Community Center. Typically eight volunteers and two staff gather with children in the Afterschool Program in groups of five to read together for thirty minutes. The participants read aloud to one another and volunteers help with word pronunciation and comprehension. Questions are asked and answered throughout the reading time. Book Club is helping students to develop a love for reading while improving their reading comprehension and pronunciation skills.

The Book Club Initiative, with the support of the *Community Enrichment Grant*, will provide 500 books for the elementary age students to read during the club activity. Most of the youth attending the Judson Community Center report that they have no books at home. This initiative will help grow the students' personal home library where they can read books with their parents and share them with their siblings. "This Club gives kids an opportunity to 'read aloud' and they love it," said Corey McDowell, Program Director. "They really get into changing their voices and bringing the stories to life." Mr. McDowell is very enthusiastic about the Book Club and its impact.

To find more information about Book Club and the YMCA Judson Community Center, please contact Stephanie Knobel, Executive Director. Mrs. Knobel can be reached at 864.271.8800, ext. 22 or at sknobel@ymcagreenville.org.

The mission of The YMCA of Greenville is, following the example of Christ, to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. All YMCA programs are tools the YMCA uses to accomplish its mission and achieve its vision of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities, and reinforce the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

The Book Club Initiative and the Afterschool Program are made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greenville.

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