CAROL E. CLEMENT’S LIFE CELEBRATED

Carol Clement Children’s
Garden & Playground Groundbreaking

GREENVILLE – A groundbreaking ceremony honoring community philanthropist, Carol E. Clement will take place on Thurs., April 28 at 11 am on the front lawn of the Caine Halter Family YMCA. The turning of the dirt represents the development of the Carol Clement Children’s Garden & Playground that is expected to be completed within several months.

Carol passed away a year ago, but throughout her life, Carol was active in the YMCA with a tireless devotion to its cause and community. She served on numerous YMCA boards over the years and impacted many lives with her dedication, stewardship, and friendship. Scot Baddley, President, and CEO of YMCA Greenville said, “Carol was a caring friend to so many of us, a model volunteer, and a constant source of inspiration through the way she loved others and supported the causes she cared most about.”

As an extension of the desire to celebrate Carol’s life in the community, family and friends joined forces to create the Carol E. Clement Children’s Garden & Playground on the front lawn of the Caine Halter Family YMCA as part of the Friends of Reedy River environmental enhancements and stewardship program. “The garden will offer our community a place for families to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, all in keeping with the way Carol lived her life.” said longtime friend Martha McKissick, “She loved her family, she loved children, she loved beauty, and she loved the YMCA.”

To honor the memory of Carol, friends and family worked in partnership with the YMCA of Greenville, Friends of the Reedy River and Greenfields Consortium to invest in the environmental element that adds landscaping enhancements and a community gathering spot that aids in sustainability for the Reedy River. The garden and playground space will include a playground, a rain garden, a dry streambed and landscape enhancements.
“This groundbreaking marks a special day for the YMCA. The YMCA has been blessed by Carol’s compassion, dignity, joy, and grace,” said Jamie Inman, Chief Mission Advancement Officer. “Although Carol is greatly missed by her family and friends, her spirit will endure through the children’s garden,” Inman said.

The Carol Clement Children’s Garden is one of several environmental elements that makes up a master plan to protect the Reedy River, educate the next generation of environmental stewards and enhance the community. In addition to the Children’s Garden, other elements under construction in coordination with Friends of the Reedy River include the YMCA Spirit Center Amphitheater scheduled for a May dedication, several rain gardens, river access areas, science stations, and playgrounds. These are being constructed on the Caine Halter Family YMCA property and the Reedy River corridor that runs adjacent to the YMCA. Donations for the additional environmental elements to restore and enhance our community are still needed and being accepted, contact Jamie Inman, (864) 242-1111 ext. 21 for more information.
About YMCA of Greenville:
The YMCA of Greenville is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. With a focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y nurtures the potential of every youth and teen, improves Greenville’s health and well-being and provides opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA provides programs and services to all people by offering sliding scale scholarships for those with financial need. Begun in 1876, the Y serves more than 65,000 people annually through programs that include Afterschool, Resident Camp and Day Camp, Aquatics, Youth and Adult Sports, and Health and Wellness. Programs are offered through four family branches, the Verdae YMCA, Y Camp Greenville, Judson Community Center, the Y Program Center-GHS and Hollingsworth Outdoor Center. The Y is also home to Y Teen Services and the SC Youth in Government program.

For more information about the YMCA of Greenville, visit ymcagreenville.org, or call (864) 242-1111.