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## YWCA OF GREATER MIAMI-DADE TO OPEN NEW MIAMI GARDENS INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING CENTER WITH \$2.5MM MATCH GRANT FROM COUNTY



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MIAMI, FL—January 25, 2017—The YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, along with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert, and a host of county officials and community leaders, will celebrate the completion of the new YWCA Intergenerational Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on **February 13, 2017 at 11:00 AM**.

The new facility, designed by Sousa Architects, sits on a lush green lot in the Miami Gardens community. Adorned with **colorful windows that wrap around the entire building and open into a beautiful playground courtyard, this well-appointed structure allows for the warmth of South Florida's sun to touch students, staff and visitors as they walk its corridors and sit in classrooms.** While some classrooms were specifically designed for early childhood programs, **there are also special amenities to facilitate learning beyond the classroom, such as a recording studio, computer clubhouse and expansive multipurpose room.**

In 2004, the YWCA received one of Miami-Dade County's Building Better Communities General Obligation Bonds for capital improvements in the amount of \$2.5MM requiring a dollar for dollar match by the organization. Groundbreaking for the new center was held in November 2013. South Florida based contractor Gerrits Construction has been leading the project.

"For years we worked to get this project off the ground. To see how beautiful and vibrant the center has turned out exceeds our expectations," said YWCA Miami Board Chair, Ana Corrales.

With a focus on empowerment of women, children and families as a form of social justice, the YWCA Miami caters its programming to individuals of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life. The new Intergenerational Center will be open not only for childhood programming, but also community meetings, social gatherings, and other events that align with the organization's mission.

"We have seen that when you empower a woman with programs focused on her wellness, financial stability and most importantly the education of her children—you give her the tools to overcome life's challenges. That is what we have done on a local level, and this new center will expand our goal to strengthen Miami-Dade County," says Leonor Romero, interim CEO of the YWCA Miami.

Both staff and students are eager to move into the new facility.

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**About the YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade:** Founded in 1919, the YWCA of Greater Miami is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. For 98 years, we have implemented programs aimed at strengthening women through financial empowerment; personal and family wellness; and youth development in the areas of computer literacy, counseling, and tutoring.