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REVISED Press Release

YES Clubhouse Receives Grant from ODE

21st Century Community Learning Center Funding Support Academic Achievement

Newark, OH, July 1, 2010: Mental Health America of Licking County's YES program (Youth Engaged in Service) learned yesterday afternoon that they will receive a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Ohio Department of Education.

The grant, contingent on funding from the U.S. Department of Education, will fund a collaboration between YES, Newark City Schools to provide afterschool programming. A portion of that programming focusing on the STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be offered in collaboration with The Works.

"We are so excited and so grateful," said MHA's Executive Director Ms. Paddy Kutz. "YES has been focused on academic success from the very beginning. This grant will provide us with the means to expand those efforts and help more of our young people."

The grant is renewable for up to 5 years and "supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for youth. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating youth."

Established in 1993, MHA's YES program provides a safe haven for after school hours and a summer day camp environment where children between the ages of 11 and 18 can

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focus on scholastic success while they build critical life skills to prepare for life's next steps. YES is partially funded by the Community Mental Health & Recovery Board, the Licking County United Way and the Licking County Foundation.

Mental Health America of Licking County, an affiliate of Mental Health America, is a partner agency of the United Way and the Community Mental Health & Recovery Board.

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