



For Immediate Release

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Delgado Receives Legislative Hero Award from the Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs

(Chicago, IL) Feb. 16, 2009— On Feb. 4, State Sen. William “Willie” Delgado received “A Legislative Hero Award” from the Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs for his support of a \$310,000 state grant to implement The Safety NetWorks program.

The Safety Net Works, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), is a grassroots program aimed at curbing violence in many of the states most dangerous neighborhoods. Each agency awarded the grant must build a grassroots coalition and develop positive programming for young people.

The YMCA Legislative Hero Award is given to two state legislators who have demonstrated a commitment to the YMCA mission of building a healthy spirit, mind, and body during the past year. The other legislator to receive this award was Representative Bill Black of Danville.

Senator Delgado has been a wonderful supporter of the YMCA’s efforts to promote youth development and foster safe communities. Now more than ever, by working with our elected officials, the Y is better able to serve the growing needs of families in the Chicagoland area,” said Ray Vazquez, Executive Vice President of Government Relations.

The award was presented to Delgado by Kenny Ruiz, Executive Director of the Street Intervention Program for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. The Street Intervention Program mediates gang disputes and promotes non-violent solutions to interpersonal and group conflicts.

Through its 65 locations and more than 100 extension sites, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago helps children learn and grow, teaches young people to lead, brings families closer, and encourages individual health and well-being. As one of the largest non-profits in Chicago and one of the largest human services organizations in the nation, YMCA programs impact hundreds of thousands of lives annually, helping to strengthen neighborhoods and respond to community needs across Chicagoland. To learn more, visit www.ymcachgo.org.

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