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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA EAST HARTFORD EARLY LEARNING CENTER EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION

Program Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process

[Hartford, CT, February 24, 2009] – The YWCA East Hartford Early Learning Center, a program of the YWCA of the Hartford Region, has earned reaccreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Deborah Ullman, CEO, YWCA of the Hartford Region. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new, more rigorous system, the YWCA East Hartford Early Learning Center went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by a NAEYC Assessor to ensure that the program meets each of the ten NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 11,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “YWCA East Hartford Early Learning Center’s NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

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The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. As of September 2006, the Association's revised program standards and criteria have introduced a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The YWCA East Hartford Learning Center is located on 9 Signor Street in East Hartford and open Monday through Friday, 7AM to 5:30PM. The Center provides services for children ages six weeks to five years old. For more information about the Center please call (860) 291-2700 or go to www.ywcahartford.org

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