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Oct. 19, 2010

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MEDIA NOTE: Attached is a low-resolution photo of the YMCA's Achievers Program participants who recently completed a 12-hour Peer Education series. A high-resolution format is available upon request.

Local teens complete Peer Education series focusing on responsible decision-making

Twenty teens from the Sarasota Family YMCA's Achievers Program recently completed a 12-hour Peer Education series and received merchandise gift cards for perfect attendance. This forum provided a way for teens to learn how to make healthy lifestyle choices that will positively influence their future education decisions, career choices and health.

The Sarasota County Health Department, in partnership with Truvine Missionary Baptist Church and in conjunction with Planned Parenthood of Central and Southwest Florida Inc., offers this Peer Education training to county teens. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County provides funding for this program.

The Truvine Teen Project partnership began in 2004 with a three-year federal Title X grant through the Florida Department of Health.

"Over the past few years, the Community Foundation has generously supported the continuation of the program," says Truvine Teen Project director Linda Pearce.

For more information about the Truvine Teen Project, call 941-861-2970 or visit the Sarasota County Health Department's website, www.sarasotahealth.org.