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PRESS RELEASE

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YWCA Empower Ring donor club buys homework stations for childcare

LANCASTER, PA – The YWCA Empower Ring donor club recently voted to use the \$1,530 it collected to buy student homework stations for the YW's after school childcare program.

YWCA School Age Child Care Director Monica Kirchner said, "Without a doubt the homework stations will enrich the overall quality of the YW's childcare."

The individual workstation cubicles enable the children to concentrate on their studies without being distracted by other activities in the room. Kirchner said homework is an important part of an after school program and many children benefit from a closed personal study space.



YWCA Board President Elizabeth Bennett (right) presents the Empower Ring winning project check to School Age Child Care Director Monica Kirchner.

Kirchner said it would also help the childcare program qualify for higher grants through the Pennsylvania Keystone STARS initiative. "Currently we are a 3-star facility. By providing students with a workstation devoted to education we can continue to work towards a 4th star which would increase our annual grant allocation." This in turn will help the YW offer more subsidies to mothers struggling to make ends meet and provide staff with additional training opportunities.

Each member of the Empower Ring contributed \$25 and voted as a group how the money would be used.

The homework station project was one of six options the Empower Ring had to choose from. The other five included an audio-visual system, assistance with college expenses for a YW volunteer, an economic empowerment program for YW residents, a lobby display of YW memorabilia and scholarships to the YW annual Racial Justice Institute.

End.