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**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**

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Northbrook, IL 60062  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Multilingual Instruction Makes Swimming a Universal Language at North Suburban YMCA**

**Northbrook, IL: October 2014** – To meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community, the North Suburban YMCA now has multilingual aquatics teachers available to assist children and adults who do not speak English. These certified swim teachers and lifeguards, who as a group speak seven different languages, supplement the Y's comprehensive aquatics program for children and adults with translation assistance, private lessons, and group class matching with language-qualified teachers.

"The YMCA has always been dedicated to water safety and enjoyment for everyone," notes Don Enger, NSYMCA Aquatics Director. "Our multilingual staff members help us ensure that language barriers do not stand in anyone's way."

The NSYMCA currently has swim teachers who speak Spanish, Korean, Russian, Persian, French, and Italian, in addition to English. When families with limited English abilities ask for assistance, Enger facilitates scheduling so that students have access to a teacher who can meet their needs. Communicating with students in their primary language improves their confidence and maximizes the effectiveness of the instruction.

Providing lessons with bilingual support is just one aspect to the comprehensive swim instruction offered by the North Suburban Y. YMCA swimming has long been considered the gold standard for aquatics instruction, with a history that includes the development of the nation's first group lesson swim curriculum in 1909. The NSYMCA today teaches over 4000 group swim lessons a year to children and adults, with supplemental programs like private lessons, SCUBA, kayaking, water fitness, triathlon training, and a competitive swim team. The Y's indoor pool is also used by local fire departments for rescue dive training, by area day camps for lessons and recreation, and by special needs organizations including the Y's Special Olympics team.

“The Y serves a very diverse population, matching that of our 15-town service area,” notes Howard Schultz, NSYMCA Executive Director/CEO. “We want to be sure that our Y provides a welcoming, supportive environment for everyone. It’s all about reaching out to the larger community and creating a setting where everyone feels at home.”

To promote swim instruction within local non-English speaking communities, the Y will host a series of open houses coordinated with other community organizations. Guests will be welcomed to meet with the aquatics staff, learn about water safety and swim instruction, and enjoy free family time in the Y’s pool. The first open house will welcome the Korean-speaking community on Sunday, November 2, from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Fall Session II swim classes, which begin on October 27, are now open for registration. Visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org) for schedules and registration, or contact Don Enger, [denger@nsymca.org](mailto:denger@nsymca.org) for more information.



*Photo Caption: The North Suburban YMCA Aquatics Staff includes certified teachers and lifeguards who are fluent in non-English languages, including (clockwise from top left) Julie Bell (Italian and French), Ellie Shahmoradi (Persian), Marci Carmichael (Spanish), Don Enger (Spanish), Moon Jung Hong (Korean), and Marc Schneider (Russian).*

### **About the North Suburban YMCA**

The YMCA is a not-for-profit entity and relies on donations to make services available for all families and individuals in its 15-city region. All board members are volunteers, who donate their time, talents and financial resources. Located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook, the YMCA has served the northern suburbs of Chicago for over 45 years. The Y is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, providing programs and services that address the needs of our diverse community and are accessible to all. For more information or to make a donation, contact Barb Flanagan at 847-272-7250 or [bflanagan@nsymca.org](mailto:bflanagan@nsymca.org), or visit [www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org).