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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Award**

**Columbia, S.C. (July 15, 2010)** – The Richland County Recreation Commission is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$90,000 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant program. With this grant, the Recreation Commission will be able to start a new afterschool program at the Crane Creek Community Center, 7405 Fairfield Road, Columbia. This innovative program will teach entrepreneurship skills, family literacy, music and instrument instruction, mentoring, gardening, environmental education, health and fitness and academic enrichment.

The Recreation Commission is one of 13 other organizations in the state that received the grant. The Richland County Recreation Commission, Richland County Recreation Foundation, John P. Thomas Elementary School staff and members of the Crane Creek community worked for a year developing the grant application.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant is federally funded and authorized by the No Child Left Behind law and is administered by the South Carolina Department of Education through a competitive process. This grant enables organizations to develop afterschool programs that serve students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

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The Richland County Recreation Commission has served Richland County since 1960 and is dedicated to enriching lives and connecting communities through diverse recreational opportunities.