



## News Release

### SWIM Central makes a Big Splash with Ronald McDonald

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The Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida will present a check for \$57,600 to the SWIMS Foundation. The money will provide the funding for 1,800 additional children to go through Broward County's SWIM Central water safety program.

Ronald McDonald himself will be presenting the check to Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler at a special ceremony on June 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Central Broward Regional Park, Tropical Splash Aquatic Facility, 3700 N.W. 11th Place in Lauderhill.

"We've already had eight children drown since January in Broward County," said Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler. "Teaching children to swim saves lives."

SWIM Central provides ten 30-minute classes over a two-week period for children to learn basic and valuable water safety and swimming skills. The curriculum-based program is taught by certified water safety instructors who have been selected and carefully trained through SWIM Central. Swimming instruction is available for children starting at six months old.

To date, SWIM Central has provided more than 150,000 children with water safety education. Last year, the SWIM Central program was utilized in 130 elementary schools, provided 26,107 children with water safety education classes and resulted in 226,580 swim lessons taught at 45 different aquatic facilities around the County.

Children were not the only beneficiaries of SWIM Central, as 859 parents completed the Target Zero Drowning Prevention course, and 26,000 SWIM Central Day Care questionnaires complete with drowning prevention material were mailed out to parents.

The success of SWIM Central has gained attention nationwide. It is the only program of its type in the country, which has heightened parent and community awareness and acted as a conduit of water safety programs -- benefiting many thousands of children, protecting our County's most precious commodity and our future.

To learn more about the Swim Central program, call 954-357-SWIM (7946) or visit their website at [www.broward.org/parks/swimcentral.htm](http://www.broward.org/parks/swimcentral.htm)

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