



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 11 2011

Dear YMCA Swimming Family,

Less than 3 months ago now, the YMCA was informed by Fort Lauderdale City Officials of the emergency closure of the stadium bleachers at their Aquatic Complex. With almost 1,700 athletes and their family and friends committed to the event and most of the 'normal' logistics in place for another successful meet, the YMCA Championships was suddenly turned upside down!

Other groups might have folded under the overwhelming set of circumstances faced. **OUR VOLUNTEERS DID NOT.** With faith, a resolve to overcome and a positive resilient attitude demonstrated throughout the meet, these dedicated, passionate and motivated YMCA volunteers found a way to make it work. They simply refused to surrender. From setup through registration and athletes welcome they worked. Through voucher release, ticket sales, split prelims, and finals each day, they worked. From 6AM Meet Committee meetings to post finals results tabulations they worked. In the end, more than 200 volunteers helped provide yet another memorable championship experience for our athletes. For that, **THANKS** seem to fall short, **BUT WE ARE THANKFUL!**

And, although we are so very proud of the work of our volunteers, it was a true expression of understanding, patience, adaptability, flexibility and cooperation exhibited by **YOU**, our **Athletes, Coaches, Families and Friends** throughout the Championships that made it work. Without your help and support, this event would not have been the success that it was. It demonstrated, yet again, the uniqueness of our YMCA Swimming Community and its ability to come together, compete, support each other and celebrate, even under somewhat adverse conditions! We both were witness to people helping people throughout these five days together and humbled by the YMCA's core values in action. You contributed to a '*Shinning Moment*' for the YMCA – **AND WE ARE GRATEFUL!**

We know the many unselfish hours of work and sacrifices EVERYONE contributed and pitched in to fix this meet to the best of everyone's ability. And, we are hopeful that the week just may have exceeded, even slightly, your expectations from what you may have perceived it to be coming in. We close with our sincere thanks to all for making it a week to remember – that's for sure! And we both feel blessed to have been a part of it with you. May you have had safe travels in your return home and we hope to see you again next year for the 2012 Edition, wherever it may be.

John Mendell
National Meet Director
YMCA National Short Course Swimming Championships

Jim Weaton
National Director of Events
YMCA of the USA/MSPS