



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Sailing Foundation Commissions Gangway Donated by Kiwanis Club of Vero-Treasure Coast

Vero Beach, FL - Youth Sailing Foundation of Indian River County (YSF) and Kiwanis Club of Vero-Treasure Coast joined together Tuesday to commission a 24-foot ADA-compliant aluminum gangway, connecting the shore with a new 60-foot floating dock recently installed by YSF. The gangway was funded through a generous donation from Kiwanis.

The new waterfront access serves as an operating base for YSF's safety and instructor boats. In addition it will provide a safe and accessible place to embark special needs sailors. YSF is the proud owner of three special access boats, recently donated by YSF volunteer Dick Gates, which are designed and rigged specifically as safe, simple crafts operable by those with a range of special needs.

YSF plans to launch a special needs sailing program this coming fall. The program will provide one-on-one instruction that will enable special needs sailors to enjoy the thrill of harnessing the wind to sail a boat under their command on the beautiful Indian River Lagoon. Sailing provides a therapeutic benefit that transcends everyday routine and lifts one's spirits.

Youth Sailing Foundation extends a special thank you to the members of Kiwanis for their support. The new gangway is literally a gateway to safe and fun sailing for a very special part of our community.

Kiwanis Club of Vero-Treasure Coast and Youth Sailing Foundation share a common mission to serve the youth of Indian River County. Working through Key Clubs in all three county high schools, Vero Beach, Sebastian, and Charter, Kiwanis sponsors ten service days annually when up to 100 students participate in service projects such as beach clean-up, home repair and building ADA ramps. Founded in 1973, the local Kiwanis chapter has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships over the last forty-five years to Indian River County high school seniors.

Kiwanis holds weekly lunch meetings on Wednesdays at noon at the Vero Beach Yacht Club. Meetings feature speakers representing a wide array of civic and non-profit organizations. Anyone with an interest in serving the youth of our community is cordially invited to join us for lunch and learn more about Kiwanis.

For information about YSF sailing instruction visit www.ysfirc.org.

For information about Kiwanis visit www.verokiwanis.com.