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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YLC Kicks project begins first season this Saturday**

*Project will provide soccer leagues in city parks over the summer season*

**New Orleans, LA (April 4, 2013)** – YLC Kicks, a project of Young Leadership Council (YLC), will begin its first six-week season this weekend, with soccer game days beginning Friday, April 5 on the West Bank and Saturday, April 6 on the East Bank.

YLC Kicks is a volunteer-led project which serves to create opportunities for all youth in New Orleans to experience the game of soccer. This sports-based youth development program is designed to help new players learn and love the game of soccer, while infusing positive messages about health, physical activity, respect, and non-violence.

In partnership with the New Orleans Recreational Development Commission, YLC Kicks will provide soccer instruction and leagues free of charge parks in Orleans Parish. Leagues are open to any youth between ages 5 and 11. For a list of participating parks or to register a child to participate in the soccer leagues, please visit <http://ylnola.org/display/ylic-kicks/>.

“We’re excited to be kicking off our first season to help hundreds of kids experience the recreational and social benefits of the beautiful game of soccer,” said Eric Kugler, YLC Kicks co-project leader. “We’re helping kids make healthy choices, one game at a time.”

YLC Kicks is actively recruiting volunteer soccer coaches and referees. For information on volunteer opportunities, e-mail [ylickicks@gmail.com](mailto:ylickicks@gmail.com).

For more information about YLC Kicks, visit <http://ylnola.org/display/ylic-kicks/>. For more information about YLC, visit [www.ylnola.org](http://www.ylnola.org).

*The Young Leadership Council is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans, creating a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.*

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