

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Friends,

Each day, our Y is privileged to serve more individuals and families through our programs that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. This month was no exception; September has been a month of celebration and growth for YMCA of Southwest Florida.

This month, our Y expanded programs, celebrated our supporters and volunteers and the many accomplishments that were achieved by working together. We also released our 2020 Annual Report which can be viewed online.

At the branches, you will continue to see facility upgrades and improvements as our team is working hard to ensure members have the best experience possible.

Fall programs are underway. From youth sports to health innovations, there are programs available for everyone. For more information about programs offered at your location, please stop by your Y's Welcome Center.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Y's mission.



Together, we are creating healthy families and communities.
Together, we thrive.

Sincerely.

Der J. Prones

Gene T. Jones
President & CEO
YMCA of Southwest Florida
Manatee County Family YMCA

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Pete Mason Memorial Golf Tournament

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YMCA Sandbar Half Marathon & 5K

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Black Tie Gala

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Tropical Nights

I am pleased to present YMCA of Southwest
Florida's 2020 Annual Report. As we reflect on
the work that took place over the past year,
I am equally humbled and inspired by
everything our team accomplished during a
very difficult time. Your continued
support provided our YMCA with the
resources to be able to meet the everchanging community needs in our
service area.

If you have not already had the opportunity to view YMCA of Southwest Florida's 2020 Annual Report, I encourage you to take a moment and visit

https://bit.ly/ YMCASWFLAnnualReport

ANNUAL REPORT

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA & MANATEE COUNTY FAMILY YMCA NEWS

Venice YMCA Youth Development Center Grand Re-Opening

YMCA of Southwest Florida hosted its Grand Re-opening of the Venice YMCA Youth Development Center and celebrated its partnership with Impact100 SRQ on August 26th. Over 50 community leaders, Impact100 SRQ members and YMCA stakeholders attended the event.



In 2020, YMCA of Southwest Florida was one of three nonprofits awarded a \$114,000 grant from Impact100 SRQ. The grant allowed the Y to renovate the outdated childcare center on its Venice YMCA campus and to expand its early learning and out-ofschool enrichment programs in South Sarasota County. Through the renovation of this center, the Y will serve an additional 120-130 children daily through early learning, after school enrichment and summer camp.

Thank you Impact100 SRQ for your vision to transform communities through innovative and meaningful collaborations.

Children's Mental Health Awareness

The mental health of children and teens has been identified as an area of priority for our Y. At the Y, we nurture the potential of every child by focusing on their overall well-being: mind, body and spirit. This focus begins in our Early Learning Academies.

Each day, our early learners participate in **Mindful Meditation** as a start to their day. This practice has been proven to prepare young children for learning and increase their overall well-being.

This month, leaders and teachers from our Early Learning

Academies attended the first training in a series of five for Trauma **Informed Care**. This training provides child care professionals with an overview of the impact of trauma on children and families and how to incorporate learning strategies to decrease stress in the classroom and to ensure every child has the resources needed to thrive in a safe, nurturing environment.



Manatee County Family YMCA Recognizes its Volunteers

On August 26th, Manatee County Family YMCA held its Board Retreat recognizing the work of its volunteers. During the celebration, Board Members and staff reflected on the great work accomplished throughout the pandemic, its management agreement with YMCA of Southwest Florida and the future of the Y movement in Manatee County.

Thank you to our YMCA Board Members for your dedication and commitment to our communities and the Y Movement.

Hank Hochstetler Memorial **Golf Tournament**

Bonita Springs YMCA's Hank Hochstetler Memorial Golf Tournament was held on September 10th at Vasari Golf and Country Club. Golfers were welcomed with perfect weather and the day was filled with fellowship. Seventy-four golfers participated in the tournament raising \$21,580 to support the children and families scholarship fund and programs at the Bonita Springs YMCA.



Thank you to our sponsors, Mark and Patt Suwyn, Bonita Springs Utilities, Inc and Curran Young Construction.

YMCA of Southwest Florida

Bonita Springs • Englewood • Fort Myers • North Port

701 Center Road, Venice, FL 34285 • ymcaswfl.org • 941.492.9622

Manatee County Family YMCA

5100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Bradenton. FL 34211 manateeymca.org • 941.798.9622