



YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

# Dear Friends,

As YMCA of Southwest Florida enters the final quarter of the year, it is hard to believe 2022 is on the horizon.

October has been a month filled with **generosity, service and connection**. It was also the beginning of many of our fall programs. In the past month, our YMCA hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pete Mason Memorial Golf Tournament, held its 34<sup>th</sup> Black Tie Gala and launched its 2021 Fall Sports Season. Our YMCAs offered **community events** such as Family Open Houses, senior and disease prevention programs and Kids Night Out. We invite you to join us at upcoming events. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ymcaswfl.org](http://www.ymcaswfl.org).

We have once again been reminded of what we can accomplish when we work together to meet our communities' emerging needs. The Y is dedicated to ensuring every person in our community has access to YMCA services. Those needs range from **scholarships for children of working parents** to bringing **affordable programs** such as youth sports and health innovations to **support healthy living of all ages**. We know a strong community can only be achieved when we invest in our kids, health and neighbors. And you are an important part of this journey; you are part of the Y Movement.

Together, we can create healthy families and communities.

Sincerely,

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Tropical Nights



Veterans 5K



Turkey Burn

## STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

For daily news, celebrations, motivation and friendship, follow us on Instagram & Facebook!



## TRY THE VIRTUAL Y

DID YOU KNOW you can follow classes live or replay them on your own time? Check it out at <https://bit.ly/VirtualYMCASWFL>



# YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA & MANATEE COUNTY FAMILY YMCA NEWS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Pete Mason Golf Tournament

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the Englewood YMCA held its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pete Mason Memorial Golf Tournament. **Eighty-eight golfers** spent the day on the beautiful Lemon Bay Golf Club course while they enjoyed a great time filled with camaraderie and fun.

All funds raised at the tournament will directly support the children's scholarship fund at the Englewood YMCA.

A special thank you to Peter and Tracy Mason for their leadership and dedication to ensure this successful event.



### Black Tie Gala

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Venice YMCA hosted its 34<sup>th</sup> Black Tie Gala, where our team of volunteers transformed our gymnasium into a glistening banquet hall.

The Venice YMCA Black Tie Gala holds a special place in the hearts of those in Venice. Year after year, this event has raised funds to make the lives of everyone in our community better. Gifts pledged at Black Tie have **built our wellness center**, purchased new **equipment for sports programs**, **built our new Early Learning Center**, and — most importantly — created **a scholarship fund for families in need**. Through the generosity of our guests, Black Tie will continue the tradition of supporting one another and making Venice a community where every individual has a chance to thrive.

I extend my utmost gratitude to our event sponsors: Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Publix Super Markets Charities, Venice Regional Bayfront Health, Caldwell Trust Company, Budweiser, Palm Printing, Sun Newspaper, Sarasota Magazine and donors.

### Our Y Welcomed Superintendent Dr. Asplen

YMCA of Southwest Florida welcomed Dr. Brennan Asplen, Sarasota County Schools Superintendent, to our Venice YMCA and SKY Academy-Venice Campus.

Thank you, Dr. Asplen, for taking the time to tour our YMCA and your commitment to the students and families in our community.

## KEEPING YOUTH AND SENIORS ACTIVE & CONNECTED

### Youth Travel Basketball

This Fall, YMCA of Southwest Florida began its travel basketball season for children ages 9 through 14.

This is the first program that will bring program participants together from the entire YMCA of Southwest Florida service area!

We currently have 8 teams from 4 locations with over 80 participants. Each week the games will take place at different YMCA of Southwest Florida locations giving children the opportunity to experience all the excitement that comes with travel sports leagues as they practice **fundamental skills**, **gain an understanding of the sport**, and **learn teamwork & cooperation**.

### Active Older Adults

At the Y, we provide opportunities for individuals of all ages to access programs that keep them healthy and well.

Over the past month, we celebrated Active Aging Adults Week by promoting health and wellness for older adults.

The Manatee County Family YMCAs, along with other Y locations, offered a series of **Health Innovation programs**, **social events** and **seminars** that directly benefit our seniors.

#### YMCA of Southwest Florida

Bonita Springs • Englewood • Fort Myers • North Port  
Port Charlotte • Punta Gorda • Venice

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

#### Manatee County Family YMCA

Bradenton • Lakewood Ranch

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