



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

DECEMBER 2021

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AND MANATEE COUNTY FAMILY YMCA TO MERGE ON JANUARY 1ST.

YMCA of Southwest Florida and Manatee County Family YMCA will officially merge on January 1, 2022. On October 28th, both Associations' Board of Directors voted unanimously to move forward with a full merger after entering into a management agreement this past spring.

This merger will expand YMCA of Southwest Florida's service area from Manatee County to Bonita Springs to include eight branches, four early learning academies, two charter schools and various off-site programs where we serve thousands of children, individuals and families daily. As we continue to follow our strategic plan, we will continue to find new and creative ways to serve those in our region of Southwest Florida.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends,

I want to express my sincere appreciation to members, donors, participants, staff and volunteers for your support. The season of giving always reminds me of how fortunate I am to be a part of a community and an organization that continues to serve others and strengthen communities.

The Y and those dedicated to its cause have the unique ability to change the lives of so many in our communities and that is what we do every day. YMCA programs impact people from six weeks to seniors in so many facets of their lives. Because of your generosity, we provide these programs and services to all regardless of financial circumstances. At the Y, we are a place where individuals from all backgrounds and beliefs come together and create a community for all. This is possible because of your continued support.

Although it has been a tumultuous year, our Y has continued to serve everchanging community needs and our organization is stronger than ever because of you. I encourage you to reflect on how you have made it possible for the Y to accomplish so many great things over the past year. I have so many things to be thankful for this year and I will reflect upon them all this holiday and it begins by me saying thank you! I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a happy New Year!

Thank you for your dedication to YMCA of Southwest Florida's mission and commitment to those we serve. You are creating healthy families and communities.

Sincerely,

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

[Click here for more information.](#)





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YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HOSTS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ENGLEWOOD YMCA'S TROPICAL NIGHTS EVENT



On November 6th, supporters of the YMCA gathered for the 25th Anniversary of the Englewood YMCA's Tropical Nights event at Palm Island Resort. This year's event was record-breaking for Tropical Nights and YMCA of Southwest Florida and is the organization's largest fundraiser to date.

Robin Madden and Andrea Truex co-chaired this year's event, raising a net profit of \$225,000, on the 25th anniversary of Tropical Nights for the Englewood YMCA's programs and Children's Scholarship Fund. It was an evening of remembrance and celebration as attendees reflected on the history of Tropical Nights and observed the many accomplishments made by the Y during the past 18 months. Guests participated in a live and silent auction and gave generously during the paddle raise to ensure children have access to YMCA Summer Camp.

A special thank you to our committee chairs, Andrea and Robin and the entire Tropical Nights committee, our Board of Directors, the Englewood YMCA Community Board, Palm Island Resort and the Beckstead Family.

[To read more, click here.](#)



MAKING FAMILIES' HOLIDAY BRIGHT

Thank you to our members and donors that supported YMCA of Southwest Florida's Annual Holiday

Meal and Toy Drive. Our holiday trees were full of children's wishes. And every child will receive their wish this holiday. Families in need of a holiday meal will also have a delicious holiday meal because of the generosity of our community.

Cameron Represents the Y

Cameron Carr will represent YMCA of Southwest Florida at YMCA National Advocacy Days. Since freshman year at Fort Myers High School, our largest Youth in Government chapter, Cameron has been a part of Youth in Government. They are currently a Senior and the President of the delegation and Vice President of their chapter. Cameron has won outstanding spokesperson in both State Assemblies they have participated in. Cameron has also participated in the Changemakers Summit. Their future goals include continuing with Youth in Government and helping the program grow.

Being selected by Y USA as a Delegate for National Advocacy Days is a huge accomplishment for them. YMCA National Advocacy Days, held in Washington, D.C., creates opportunities for high school students to gain practical, real-world experience advocating for policy solutions that help Ys address critical social issues in our three areas of focus: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Cameron is looking forward to visiting D.C. and representing YMCA of Southwest Florida.

Congratulations, Cameron. We are proud of you.



It is not too late to give!

Over the past two years, our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure every person

in our community has the support they need to navigate these difficult times.

We know the need in Southwest Florida is great and the challenges we face won't disappear overnight, but with your support, we can help ensure everyone in our community has access to the services, resources and opportunities they need to thrive. It's not too late to give. Please consider making a tax-deductible year-end donation to YMCA of Southwest Florida to help create a stronger community for all. [Visit www.ymcaswfl.org/give.](http://www.ymcaswfl.org/give)



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