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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMCA of Southwest Florida Receives \$10,000 from BJ's Wholesale Club

VENICE, FL., March 2022 – YMCA of Southwest Florida recently welcomed a new partner, BJ's Wholesale Club, to the Port Charlotte community. The brand-new club is located at 19150 Quesada Avenue and marked the retailers second grand opening of the year.

In support of the Port Charlotte community and the YMCA's "Hometown Partners. Hometown Heroes" sponsorship program, BJ's generously provided \$10,000 to its new partner. All gifts designated to this fund are used to provide scholarships to the YMCA, offering children and families in the community the opportunity to participate in programs and activities that lead to healthy living. From serving 489,386 meals to children to running afterschool and summer camp programs, the YMCA proves to be an invaluable service to its neighbors.

"YMCA of Southwest Florida is incredibly grateful for the support of BJ's Wholesale Club," said Kristen Szych, Franz Ross YMCA Executive Director. "Gifts made to our scholarship fund go directly back into the community, giving our neighbors an opportunity to participate in a variety of services that we offer. With this new partnership, we'll be able to serve more individuals, children, and families across Charlotte County as we work together to ensure that our benefits are accessible to all."

The developing partnership between the YMCA and BJ's allows each organization to combine their efforts and work together in support of hunger relief, education, and general wellness throughout the community. Covering the counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry, and Glades, the YMCA has served over 54,759 individuals, providing financial assistance through these sponsorships that are made available by donor dollars.

"We are always thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with organizations, such as the YMCA, who are doing such important work and reaching so many individuals," said Kyle Byrnes, Manager of Corporate Communications and Community Affairs at BJ's Wholesale Club. "It's an honor to partner with the YMCA in this area and provide support to those who are heavily impacted by its services and programs."

BJ's Wholesale Club remains committed to its mission of nourishing communities and helping families thrive; a goal that becomes more attainable through partnerships with organizations and nonprofits across the East Coast.

For more information on YMCA of Southwest Florida, community members are encouraged to contact Jamie Browning, Vice President of Development, YMCA of Southwest Florida at (941)-492-9622 or JBrowning@ymcaswfl.org.

For more information about your local BJ's Wholesale Club, visit [BJs.com/PortCharlotte](https://www.BJs.com/PortCharlotte).

YMCA of Southwest Florida

Bonita Springs • Englewood • Fort Myers • North Port • Port Charlotte • Punta Gorda • Venice
701 Center Road, Venice, FL 34285 • swflymca.org • 941.492.9622

The Mission of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.



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About YMCA of Southwest Florida

YMCA of Southwest Florida is a leading non-profit strengthening southwest Florida communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Driven by its founding mission, the Y has served as a leading non-profit committed to strengthening community for more than 175 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships, and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y's goal is to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties.

YMCA of Southwest Florida's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan charts a clear direction for the association and anchors the YMCA's efforts in three initiatives: sustainability, people, and community.

About BJ's Wholesale Club

Headquartered in Westborough, Massachusetts, BJ's Wholesale Club is a leading operator of membership warehouse clubs in the Eastern United States. The company currently operates 226 clubs and 157 BJ's Gas® locations in 17 states.

The Company's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: BJ).

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