

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MARCH 2022



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This month, YMCA of Southwest Florida celebrated the achievements of women and recognized the importance of gender equality. We were able to grow into what we are today from the help of our strong women leaders. Join us by celebrating the strong women in your life.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

I am always amazed when I see the level of commitment and dedication from our volunteers, members, program participants and youth. This month alone, our Y family has come together through partnerships, acts of service and supporting others through selfless acts of kindness. Our donors gave generously, students and youth engaged in activities to strengthen communities and members continued to seek opportunities to stay healthy and well. As we continue to grow, I know the best is yet to come.

To each of you that support the Y Movement, thank you. Together, we can create healthy families and communities.

Sincerely,

Gene T. Jones

Gene T. Jones
 President and CEO
 YMCA of Southwest Florida



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing the potential of every child and teen for a path to success.

HEALTHY LIVING

Improving the health and well-being through partnerships with health care.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Foster a greater sense of engagement to provide support to our neighbors.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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YMCA SUMMER CAMP PRESENTATIONS



At YMCA Summer Camp, every day is an adventure. Summer Camp planning happens year-round at all YMCA of Southwest Florida branches and this month is no exception. Each year, our Youth Development staff pour their time, treasures and talents into preparing for the arrival of our Campers. This month, our Youth Development Directors presented their summer camp plans to our association leadership. From safety to curriculum to scheduling and more, the presentations were a glimpse into the BEST SUMMER EVER! And we cannot wait to welcome our campers this summer.

For more information about YMCA Summer Camp, please visit www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/child-care/summer-camps

SKY ACADEMY VENICE MOCK TRIAL



Advanced Civics classes recently participated in a mock trial: Tinker v. Des Moines. Students worked incredibly hard as they prepared for this one-day event and through their participation, they not only gained civic knowledge, but they also developed life-skills such as critical thinking, public speaking and the art of forming a persuasive, cohesive argument.

Thank you to Lift Church for letting us use your stage so all of our students could watch the trial and to all of our staff that volunteered to play a part as well.

YOU DID KNOW Did you know that **768 CAMPERS** participated in the 2021 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge last summer and **READ 20,114 BOOKS?**

READ ACROSS AMERICA



From our Early Learners to students in our programs, children throughout our association participated in Reading Across America. Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA) and guided by a committee of educators, NEA's Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone.



HEALTHY LIVING

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SOCCER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

YMCA of Southwest Florida soccer players learn the fundamentals of the game and teamwork in a fun environment. Coaches focus on teaching skills through drills and agility training. All soccer players participate in weekly practices and games. The youth soccer program provides a positive environment for players to make new friends, develop good techniques and practice good sportsmanship.

For more information or to register for upcoming Youth Sports programs, please visit www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/sports-recreation/youth-sports-leagues-and-clinics



YOU DID KNOW ENHANCEFITNESS

EnhanceFitness is a 16-week evidence-based group exercise program for older adults that uses simple, easy-to-learn movements that motivate individuals, particularly those with arthritis and balance issues, to stay active throughout their life. Each class session includes cardiovascular, strength training, balance and flexibility exercises and the fostering of strong social relationships between participants. EnhanceFitness is geared toward older adults.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR LES MILLS VIRTUAL STUDIOS?

LES MILLS Virtual is the way for people to be motivated, entertained and immersed in big screen, 5-star Cinematic Fitness. Now people around the world can experience the world's leading fitness programs delivered up close and virtual with the world's best fitness instructors.

YMCA Members have access to virtual studios in Englewood, Port Charlotte, and Fort Myers. Stop by today and join a class that is incomparable to anything you have experienced up until now.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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WHY COOK!



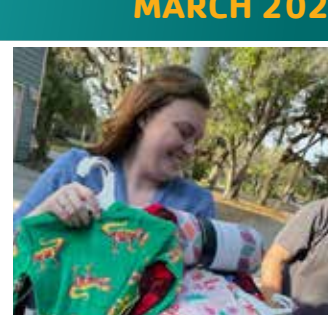
The Bonita Springs YMCA celebrated its annual fundraiser, WHY COOK! Guests experienced an engaging evening as they participated in an interactive dinner. Attendees prepared a fabulous four-course Mediterranean meal for their table as the talented Executive Chef at Michael's on East led the presentation.

The event had live and silent auctions featuring items such as a staycation and various luxurious trips from the beaches of Los Cabos to Europe. Guests also gave generously through a paddle raise. This spectacular evening of giving and fun raised \$212,440. All funds raised at WHY COOK! go directly back into the Bonita Springs' community to support the Children and Families Scholarship Fund and programs at the Bonita Springs YMCA.

Thank you to all those who attended and supported the event. And a special thank you to our Apron Sponsors, Mark and Patt Duwyn for their support and dedication to our Y and the community.

SKY ACADEMY VENICE STUDENTS COLLECT DONATIONS TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

SKY Academy Venice participated in a collection drive for Ukrainian refugees who have evacuated to Poland. Items were directly shipped to the Ukraine-Poland border to help support our neighbors in need as many have lost everything in their effort to seek a safe place for themselves and their families. Thank you to everyone who donated items!

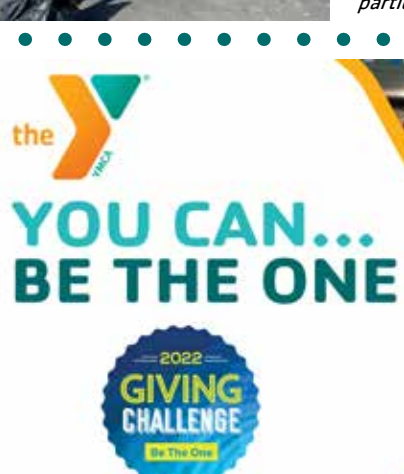


SKY ACADEMY ENGLEWOOD BEACH CLEAN-UP



"The beach clean-up was important to me because it feels good to help the community and animals in the community. It was important for the community because it makes the beach look nice and it helps keep the water clean from trash." - Rylee

Student in SKY Academy Englewood's Fishing Club participated in a beach clean-up.



THE GIVING CHALLENGE

BE THE ONE... to connect people to a greater sense of purpose – and to each other – to make our community stronger. JOIN US AND DISCOVER WHAT A GIFT IT IS TO GIVE. www.ymcaswfl.org/givingchallenge

UPCOMING DATES

- ▶▶ TROPICAL NIGHTS: April 23rd
- ▶▶ THE GIVING CHALLENGE: April 26th-27th (noon to noon)
- ▶▶ HARBOR NIGHTS: November 5th



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