

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MAY 2022



MAY IS WATER SAFETY MONTH

Teaching children how to be safe around water is not a luxury; it is a necessity. YMCA of Southwest Florida's Safety Around Water program can help ensure children learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities for them to satisfy their curiosity safely.

For more information about Safety Around Water, visit <https://www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/aquatics/safety-around-water> or stop by your local YMCA branch today.



Last year, **3,801** children learned how to be safe in and around water through Safety Around Water.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

This past month has been an extraordinary time at our YMCA. We have seen so many great things develop from partnerships, unity and our communities' efforts to always push forward and serve others.

Over the past several weeks, our Y has received an outpouring of support from our volunteers, donors and communities. We hosted Tropical Nights, participated in the 2022 Giving Challenge and launched our Community Fund Drive. We are actively preparing for Summer Camp and continue to offer and expand high-quality programs that serve children, families and seniors. And this weekend, we will host Healthy Community Day at every branch.

Our Y is truly special. There is something for everyone. When someone walks through the doors of the Y, they become part of something bigger. The Y is a community that impacts lives of individuals daily because it is built upon the belief that, 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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YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT : SUPERHERO WEEK



Students and volunteers from around the state participated in the 65th Annual Florida YMCA Youth In Government State Assembly in Tallahassee April 8th – 10th, 2022. As a joint assembly, middle and high school students served in the actual Florida Senate and House chambers as well as in the Cabinet and Supreme Court offices during the 3-day session.

Amongst those students were 58 from YMCA of Southwest Florida, representing the largest delegation in attendance. The Assembly acts as the culmination of the YMCA Youth In Government program—"YIG" for short—a year-round civic engagement and service learning experience that offers students around the state the opportunity to participate in a student-run, student-led model government process. Founded in 1957, YMCA Youth In Government is a civic engagement and service-learning program of the Florida Alliance of YMCAs that serves over 1,200 students from middle school through college across the state. YMCA Youth In Government programs operate in 38 states and the District of Columbia, serving over 50,000 students each year.

For more information about our local Youth In Government Program please contact Bobbie Santiago at BSantiago@ymcaswfl.org.



YMCA of Southwest Florida celebrated Superhero Week across our association. From staff to the youngest learners and volunteers, capes were worn proudly and all had fun!

Thank you to our Youth Development Professionals for being superheroes every day as you nurture the potential of every child in our programs. Our Y and communities appreciate you!



HAVE YOU HEARD? YMCA of Southwest Florida will begin serving Desoto County this Fall.



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

In April, our Y hosted its first association-led Youth Mental Health Training. Over 100 Youth Development Leaders across our association participated in the full day training where they learned how to identify, respond and support children's mental health.

HEALTHY LIVING

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WELLNESS FOR KIDS AND TEENS

The Y is the starting point for many youth to learn about becoming and staying active, and developing healthy habits they will carry with them throughout their lives. The benefits gained through early exposure to fitness are far greater than just physical health.

Healthy habits learned early can be the key to a healthy lifestyle. YMCA programs such as Youth Wellness, Jr. Strength Training, Family Fitness, Kid Fit and Tot Time, help children develop habits to keep children healthy into adulthood and throughout their lives.

For more information visit <https://www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/wellness/wellness-kids-teens>.

YOU DID KNOW In 2021, **475** individuals participated in Health Innovation programs.

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL



Tennis and Pickleball at the YMCA are designed to help you grow with the basic, intermediate and advanced skills of tennis and pickleball. Court reservations, lessons, clinics and tournaments are available at select YMCA of Southwest Florida branches.

Visit <https://www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/sports-recreation/tennis-and-pickleball> for more information.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Join us on May 7th for Healthy Community Day.

Healthy Community Day is the Y's national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids, families and seniors. YMCAs across the country host free community events aimed to inspire people to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the summer months. The day-long event will feature activities that range from rock climbing to cooking demonstrations to reading and STEM. All activities are designed to inspire people to get active while simultaneously teaching individuals and families how to develop routines that support mental and physical health year-round.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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TROPICAL NIGHTS : 2022 GIVING CHALLENGE



On April 23rd, over 440 supporters of the YMCA attended the 26th Englewood YMCA's Tropical Nights event at Palm Island Resort.

Robin Madden chaired this year's event, raising a net-profit of \$206,000 to support the Englewood YMCA's Children and Families Scholarship Fund and programs. Guests enjoyed a fabulous evening filled with delicious food, fantastic auctions and dancing to the band, Tropical Avenue. Our donors gave generously during the paddle raise to ensure all children in the Englewood have access to YMCA Summer Camp.

Thank you to our event sponsors; Publix Super Market Charities, Palm Island Resort, Abels Marine & Abe's Boat Rentals, WrightWay Emergency Services, Quality Carpet and Flooring, Michael Saunders & Company, Farr Law Firm, Sandy King and Symbiont Service Corp, Sun Newspapers and Palm Printing.

A special thank you to the Beckstead Family and Palm Island Resort for 26 years of support.

Next year's Tropical Nights event will be held on April 15, 2023 at Palm Island Resort.



We are so grateful for the generosity shown to YMCA of Southwest Florida during the 2022 Giving Challenge.

Because of our supporters, we were able to exceed our goal and raise over \$105,000. These funds will allow the Y to further our mission of supporting children and families in our community through youth development, social responsibility and healthy living. Each gift made will play a critical role in allowing us to serve our community and create an even larger impact.

Thank you to all our donors who doubled their impact during the Giving Challenge.

If you were unable to participate in the Giving Challenge, you still have the opportunity to give by making a donation to our Community Fund Drive or visiting www.ymcaswfl.org/give.

A special thank you to Community Foundation of Sarasota County and Patterson Foundation for making the Giving Challenge possible.



COMMUNITY FUND DRIVE

At the Y, we 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.

Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 17th- 23rd)

To our volunteers: Thank you for sharing your time and talent at the Y and changing lives and communities, including your own.

Because of you, lives are changed each day.

YOU DID KNOW In 2021, **841** Individuals served as volunteers for YMCA of Southwest Florida. **23,550** hours of service were provided by volunteers.