CONNECTING COMMUNITIES MCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MAY 2022



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.



children learned how to be safe in and around water • through Safety **Around Water.**

Last year,

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.

Gene T. Jones

Sincerely,

President and CEO YMCA of Southwest Florida





DEVELOPMENT Nurturing the

YOUTH

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



LIVING

HEALTHY

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



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT: SUPERHERO WEEK



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.



across our association. From staff to the youngest learners and volunteers, capes were worn proudly and all had fun!

YMCA of Southwest Florida celebrated Superhero Week

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

Thank you to our Youth **Development Professionals**







will begin serving Desoto County this Fall.



In April, our Y hosted its first association-led Youth Mental Health Training. Over 100 Youth Development

day training where they learned how to identify, respond and support children's mental health. **HEALTHY LIVING**

Leaders across our association participated in the full



YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA **TENNIS AND**

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

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

For more information visit https://www.ymcaswfl.org/programs/

through early exposure to fitness are far greater than just

In 2021, **475** individuals participated in Health

Innovation programs.



physical health.

wellness/wellness-kids-teens.



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

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



SATURDAY, MAY 7 YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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**

GIVING CHALLENGE



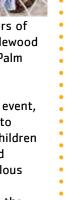


fantastic auctions and dancing to the band, Tropical Avenue. Our donors gave generously during the paddle raise to ensure all children in Englewood have access to YMCA Summer Camp. Thank you to our event sponsors; Publix

Resort, Abels Marine & Abe's Boat Quality Carpet and Flooring, Michael Saunders & Company, Farr Law Firm,

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

Sandy King and Symbiont Service Corp, Sun Newspapers and Palm Printing.



Super Market Charities, Palm Island

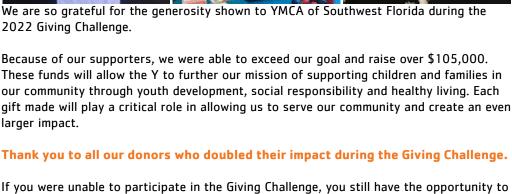
Rentals, WrightWay Emergency Services,

Next year's Tropical Nights event will be

held on April 15, 2023 at Palm Island

Resort.

2022 Giving Challenge. larger impact.



COMMUNITY

each other to make our

Join us and discover what

community stronger.

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.

FUND DRIVE At the Y, we connect people to a greater sense of purpose - and to



941-492-9622

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.



a gift it is to give.

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

