



PRESS RELEASE

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YMCA of Southwest Florida Celebrates Unification and Welcomes New Board Members, Libby Soderberg, Shana Meadows and Dr. Din Kagalwala

VENICE, Florida – On October 30th, YMCA of Southwest Florida announced the unification of the Y and CoreSRQ. As of November 1st, YMCA of Southwest Florida expanded its operations to include facilities of CoreSRQ. This decision comes from the vision and commitment to strengthening community throughout the region and ensuring every individual has access to YMCA programs.

Concurrent with the decision to unify the organizations, the Board of Directors of YMCA of Southwest Florida unanimously elected Libby Soderberg, Shana Meadows and Dr. Din Kagalwala to join the Board of Directors. Their leadership was instrumental in the success of CoreSRQ and paved the path to bring the Y back to the Sarasota Community.

Libby Soderberg is an Electrical Engineer and former defense contractor whose work focused on artificial intelligence and facial identification. She has extensive international experience living and traveling in multicultural milieus, particularly in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In addition, Libby has more than 25 years of experience leading and serving non-profit organizations. Having been raised in a military family, she has a particular appreciation for the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the men and women serving our country and local communities. Libby currently serves on the board of the Sarasota Police Foundation. As a lifelong athlete, she is also committed to encouraging others to actively advocate for and control their health and well-being. Prior to the unification, Libby served as the Board Chair for CoreSRQ, Inc. in Sarasota.

Shana Meadows is an accomplished and dynamic finance and operations leader; Mrs. Meadows has made an indelible mark during her recent seven-year tenure as the Finance Manager for the Sarasota Police Department. Meadows graduated *summa cum laude* with a Master of Business Administration from Pittsburg State University and holds a Bachelor of Science from Eastern Mennonite University. Mrs. Meadows possesses an impressive career spanning across various sectors, encompassing private, non-profit, and government domains. Her extensive experience and expertise make her a valuable asset. She remains committed to fostering financial excellence, community engagement, and strategic leadership, which have a lasting impact on the people, organizations, and the Sarasota community. She served as the Board Treasurer of CoreSRQ.

Dr. Din Kagalwala is a practicing dual board-certified Cardiac Anesthesiologist with more than 15 years of clinical experience. He has resided in Sarasota for the past nine years. He is a proven leader with past positions, including the President of Sarasota Anesthesiologists PA, Medical Director, and Chair of the Anesthesia department at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. He was a Flight Surgeon with the USAF. He supported the Second Gulf War by being the Chief Medical Evacuation officer at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. He led multiple medical evacuation missions in combat, earning the USAF Air Medal. He received the Air Force Commendation medal for meritorious overall service. Currently, he owns and operates an Anesthesia staffing solutions company and is the Chair of Anesthesia for Advent Tampa Hospital. Among his many professional interests include the introduction of Artificial Intelligence

YMCA BRANCHES

Bonita Springs YMCA
Bradenton YMCA
Englewood YMCA
Fort Myers YMCA
Franz Ross YMCA
Lakewood Ranch YMCA
Palmer Ranch YMCA
Punta Gorda YMCA
Sarasota City YMCA
Venice YMCA

SKY ACADEMIES

SKY Academy Englewood
SKY Academy Venice

EARLY LEARNING

ACADEMIES

Charlotte Harbor YMCA
Early Learning Academy

Bonita Springs YMCA
The Suwyn Early Learning Academy

Venice YMCA
Early Learning Academy

YMCA Early Learning Academy
at PGT Innovations

OFFSITE LOCATIONS

Cooper Street Recreation Center
YMCA Camp Estero

ALSO SERVING

Cape Coral
Clewiston
DeSoto
Estero
Labelle
Lehigh Acres
Moore Haven
North Port

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

based systems to help mitigate patient-physician interactions. Dr. Kagalwala has been involved with multiple community activities, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts and Food, not Bombs, a grassroots organization dedicated to combating hunger among the homeless. He is a life-long member and supporter of the YMCA.

“YMCA of Southwest Florida is entering its most exciting chapter yet.” said Dorothy Korszen, YMCA of Southwest Florida’s Chief Volunteer Officer. “As we continue to grow our organization and amplify our impact, the level of expertise from the newest Board Members will elevate our already strong Board of Directors and will support our mission to ensure all individuals have access to YMCA programs across our seven-county region.”

Korszen continues, “The possibilities are endless, especially, now that the Y serves a continuous service area from Manatee County to Bonita Springs with the addition of our two Sarasota County branches. And Libby, Shana, and Dr. Kagalwala will ensure that the unique needs of the Sarasota community are incorporated into our Y family.”

Gene T. Jones, President and CEO agrees, “We are delighted to welcome three incredible, community-minded individuals to our Board. Their wisdom and shared values of the YMCA’s mission will help lead and propel our organization forward and continue to foster the spirit of a phenomenal Board.”

YMCA of Southwest Florida serves the counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Desoto, Lee, Hendry and Glades through programs that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Everyone in the communities served by YMCA of Southwest Florida has access to its programs through the YMCA Scholarship Fund. Regardless of their inability to pay, financial assistance is available due to community partners and donors' support.

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.

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 aims to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Desoto, Hendry and Glades Counties.