



PRESS RELEASE

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Former YMCA Camp Counselor and Local Business Leader Launches \$20,000 Summer Camp Scholarship Match

Venice- Local business leader and former YMCA camp counselor Scott Pinkerton, along with his wife Julie and FourThought Private Wealth, have committed a \$20,000 matching gift to help local children attend YMCA summer camp.

The challenge gift will match community contributions dollar-for-dollar, with a goal of raising an additional \$20,000 from local supporters. Together, the effort aims to generate \$40,000 for summer camp scholarships, providing approximately 400 summer camp experiences for children throughout the Venice community.

The matching campaign comes at a critical time as the YMCA experiences a significant increase in requests for scholarship assistance from working families seeking safe, affordable summer opportunities for their children.

Summer camp provides children with a safe, enriching environment where they build confidence, develop friendships, stay active, learn new skills and create lasting memories. Through swimming, literacy activities, outdoor adventures, sports, arts, and character development programs, campers gain experiences that positively impact them long after summer ends.

For Scott Pinkerton, supporting YMCA camp is deeply personal.

"Summer camp is an important experience for young kids, but it can be expensive for families. We want to encourage families to enroll their children, as they will benefit from a variety of activities, summer reading, good nutrition, and limited screen time," said Scott Pinkerton.

"One of my first jobs in high school was as a summer counselor at the Venice Y. I still run into former campers — one went on to win an Academy Award, another became a doctor, and another now works in a local physician's office. The Y makes a difference. We are thrilled to be underwriting a full summer camp experience to support local children and families."

Through its scholarship and financial assistance programs, the YMCA works to ensure every child has access to life-changing opportunities regardless of their family's ability to pay.

"This generous matching gift from Scott Pinkerton, Managing Partner, FourThought Private Wealth and his wife Julie is an investment in the future of our community," said Kathryn Custer, Executive Director of the Venice YMCA. "Not only will their gift directly support children, but it also challenges all of us to come together and double our impact. Every dollar donated through this campaign will help create opportunities for local children to learn, grow, and thrive."

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.

Community members, businesses, and supporters are encouraged to participate in the matching challenge. With every donation doubled through the Pinkertons' commitment, supporters can immediately increase their impact and help ensure more children experience a summer filled with learning, friendship, adventure, and belonging.

To make a gift, visit www.ymcaswfl.org/give, stop by the Venice YMCA, or contact YMCA of Southwest Florida's Philanthropy Office at give@ymcaswfl.org to learn more about supporting summer camp scholarships.

Give a Summer. Change a Life.

To learn more about YMCA of Southwest Florida's mission and programs, please visit www.ymcaswfl.org.

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.