

## **The SKY Family YMCA Receives Continued Support From Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation Through their COVID-19 Response Initiative.**

### **The SKY Family YMCA receives a \$75,000 grant to provide childcare to families of first responders and essential workers at no cost.**

Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation have continued their partnership with The SKY Family YMCA to provide childcare at no cost to families of essential workers for the remainder of the school year.

Childcare for the families of first responders and essential personnel continues to be a need throughout our local communities. As Florida prepares to reopen, families will need childcare for their children due to school closures. This grant will allow The SKY Family YMCA to provide childcare to these families at no cost making childcare accessible to families in South Sarasota County that are serving on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, The SKY Family YMCA operates two Camp Heroes school-age care locations in South Sarasota County. Camp Heroes provides all-day youth relief care for essential workers to help support the children of healthcare and emergency response professionals who are playing important roles combating the coronavirus. This program gives parents a safe, fun and nurturing environment for their children to attend during the day as they continue to serve our community. Many families do not have the financial resources to handle this extra cost when they traditionally rely on schools to provide much of the care during the day.

“The SKY Family YMCA is extremely grateful for our continued partnership with Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation through their COVID-19 Response Initiative,” says Gene Jones, President and CEO. “This grant will provide childcare for families at our Camp Heroes programs in Venice and Englewood at no cost. By eliminating financial barriers, families will have access to childcare for their children for the remainder of the school year regardless of their ability to pay. As the community begins to find a new sense of normalcy, the Y must do everything in our ability to help

families find theirs. Many families need childcare to continue to serve on the frontlines. Other essential workers have been left financially insecure and this opportunity will allow them to take the first step towards rebuilding their futures. This would not be possible without our community partners. Thank you to Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation for your continued support.”

To learn more about The SKY Family YMCA’s All-day Youth Relief Care program, please visit our website at <https://www.swflymca.org/main/heroes-camp-and-early-learning-centers>.