



THE SKY FAMILY YMCA PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Gene Jones
President and CEO



NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH MAY 2020



GOOD NEWS...

We're excited to announce that our Board of Directors has approved the Strategic Plan for The SKY Family YMCA! A special thank you to David Dignam who chaired the committee, Keith Farlow (Board Chair) and to all Association and Advisory Board members who participated in the process. The plan will be revealed over the upcoming months and will be available online after we share with key stakeholders, staff and volunteers who were all instrumental in developing the plan. Although we all have been enduring the impact of a pandemic this year, the future of your Y is bright and our organization will emerge stronger than ever.

Giving Challenge Update

I am also happy to share the results of the recent 24-hour Giving Challenge. The SKY Family YMCA raised \$61,057 with the support of 340 donors! This is more than double the amount raised during the last Giving Challenge in 2018 when 201 donors raised \$25,901; and it exceeded this year's goal of \$50,000. Thank you to the Community Foundation of Sarasota and The Patterson Foundation for your support and THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS! When we work together, we can accomplish great things for the children and families in our community.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for staying with us! As you know, we have been providing meals to children and families, providing emergency childcare services to first responders, hosting blood drives and providing virtual wellness classes and programs for our members during this crisis. We were able to pivot to these crucial services because of the support from the community at large with small and large donations. We are grateful to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation for generously awarding The SKY Family YMCA two grants in the amount of \$125,000 for the COVID-19 Response Initiative. In addition, we were recently awarded a \$285,000 grant from the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation to continue this effort over the summer. We also received a \$40,000 grant from the Richard M. Shulze Family Foundation to support the Y's continued outreach in childcare and continuity of services. We are so grateful to all of you for your commitment to children and families and our organization as we provide services to strengthen the community!

RE-OPENING PHASE ONE:

Although many of you have participated in our virtual classes, we miss seeing you in the facilities each day. I am happy to announce that we began our Phase One re-opening on Monday, May 18th. The first areas opened were the Pickleball and Tennis courts and the swimming pools for adult lap swim only. Reservations can be taken 2 ways, through our new YMCA App or by contacting your local Y for a walk-in reservation. Reservations can be made 24 hours in advance. Monday reservations can be made Saturday during operating hours.

A comprehensive outline has been sent to members regarding our Phase One re-opening. You can also find additional information on the website or contact your local Y. We miss you and look forward to seeing you back at your Y.

Full Phase One:

Effective May, 26th all of The SKY Family YMCA locations will have the following areas open with restrictions:

Wellness Centers, Group Exercise Studios, Swimming Pools, Restrooms, Locker Rooms (restroom use only) and Gymnasiums for (Camp and Group Exercise classes only). Virtual Classes and Family Engagement will continue.

In accordance with state and local officials, The SKY Family YMCA will navigate this unique situation while maintaining a commitment to safety that prioritizes the health and wellness of staff, members and program participants. We continue to work closely with Y leaders and utilize CDC guidelines, state and local governmental agencies and other partner resources to develop, refine and implement guidelines for resuming operations safely and responsibly.

BEST SUMMER CAMP EVER

The SKY Family YMCA serves more than 1,000 children in day camp programs each summer. We will be offering a 2020 camp program with an online registration process this year! The Y will follow COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing guidelines during summer programs.

**Thank you for Staying With Us. . .
We look forward to seeing you back at the Y!**

The SKY Family YMCA
Bonita Springs • Englewood • Fort Myers • North Port • Port Charlotte • Venice • Punta Gorda
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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.