

The SKY Family YMCA Receives A Grant From The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

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The SKY Family YMCA has received a \$60,000 grant from The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation to support the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the YMCA will continue to be able to provide services beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a non-profit, the financial impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to The SKY Family YMCA is immense. As a result of facility closures, postponement of programs and event cancellations, the Y anticipates a significant loss in revenue. Each year, The SKY Family YMCA provides over \$1,000,000 in scholarship assistance to those in our community who could not afford YMCA services otherwise. Once this pandemic dissipates, many families and individuals will be financially insecure and need our services more than ever.

"The SKY Family YMCA is grateful for the continued support of The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation," said Gene Jones, President and CEO. "This grant will allow the Y to continue to serve our communities through our COVID-19 response efforts. It will also ensure that our Y will be able to serve the community once we can open our facilities to members and program participants. Our Y provides over \$1,000,000 of scholarship assistance annually to individuals and families. As the Y, we need to make sure these resources are still available for everyone in the community regardless of their social-economic status."

Currently, the SKY Family YMCA is offering childcare in eight locations in Southwest Florida through its early learning centers and school-age care program, Camp Heroes. Also, amid school closures related to COVID-19, The SKY Family YMCA is providing free Grab & Go meals to ensure kids have uninterrupted access to healthy and nutritious foods. Virtual fitness opportunities are available and easily accessed via local SKY Family YMCA social media pages to ensure individuals can stay healthy and active while facilities are closed. Blood drives were also scheduled at SKY Family YMCA locations across Southwest Florida to address the critical blood shortage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Y is so much more than fitness centers and gyms, pools and locker rooms; we are a cause! Dedicated to strengthening and protecting the spirits, minds, and bodies of our friends and communities," said Gene Jones, President and CEO. "The doors may be locked, but as the Y, we continue to serve. We are looking forward to the day when we can safely engage with our members and participants within our facilities."

To learn more about The SKY Family YMCA or its COVID-19 response efforts, please visit www.swflymca.org.