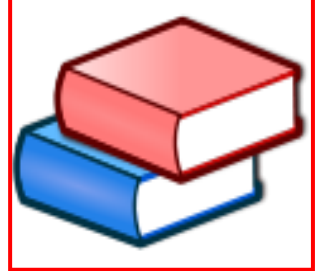




The SKY Family YMCA



DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope this letter finds each of you healthy and well.

It has been a busy month at The SKY Family YMCA. From preparing for the opening of our newest early learning center to extending summer camp to implementing our Strategic Plan, our Y has remained committed to **Creating Healthy Families and Communities**.

This month, we hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Suwyn Early Learning Center at the Bonita Springs YMCA. The early learning center will provide early childhood education services to 150 children daily. This is a great moment for our Y and the community of Bonita Springs as we expand our youth development programs to develop the potential of every child within our communities.

To meet the needs of our families, summer camps have been extended through the end of August due to delays in school openings. The extension of summer camp will provide families with continued access to high-quality childcare for their children as they prepare for the unknowns of the upcoming school year.

The SKY Family YMCA Strategic Plan 2023 is now available on our website. I encourage you to take a moment and review our Strategic Plan at <https://www.swflymca.org/our-our-strategic-plan>. This plan charts a clear direction for our association and anchors our efforts in three initiatives: sustainability, people and community.

As we move forward, our Y will continue to focus on providing safe programs that increase our community impact and create opportunities for individuals to thrive.

YMCA BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Our 15th Annual Back to School Bash was a "drive by" pickup this year and we saw over 325 families receive backpacks and school supplies! A big thank you to the Englewood Rotary Youth Foundation, Ormond Dixon Foundation, Hamsher Homes and Hamsher Realty for their funding. Supplies were generously donated by Living Hope Church, Englewood United Methodist Church and Dollar Tree. McDonalds joined by handing out coupons. Inside the backpacks children will find a book from the Elsie Quirk Public Library, snacks from All Faith's Food Bank and toiletries from Kid's Needs of Englewood. Thank you to the Englewood Lions Club for all their wonderful volunteers! This is truly a community event helping our children with a great start to the new school year!

TEAM SPORTS RETURN

Our gymnasts began training 3 days a week starting on June 15th, with a team of 38 gymnasts. With safety being our number one priority, we followed the CDC safety procedures as well as USA Gymnastics re-opening guidelines to provide a safe training environment for all our gymnasts and staff. After a 3 month layoff, we also offered additional training options via training clinics and private lessons. With the competitive skills and routines in preparation for future competitions. Our gymnastics program begins August 31st. We look forward to welcoming new and returning participants back to our SKY Family YMCA gymnastics center.



The Hurricanes Swim Team currently has 68 swimmers on the squad. The team followed the *Return To Safe Swimming* protocol prescribed by USA swimming concerning COVID-19 procedures. We are looking forward to a virtual swim meet later in August and enjoyed a clinic with an Olympian who taught and reinforced the finer technical skills of swimming. The kids are thriving with their much anticipated return to socialization and team dynamics!



VIRTUAL MARATHON

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Englewood YMCA ran its annual Sand Bar Half-Marathon and 5k, but this year with a twist. The marathon utilized a virtual platform. This means that instead of running the normal route, everyone who signed up ran the same mileage, but in their own time and a location of their choosing. Incredibly, 358 people signed up, and some as far away as Germany and Brazil! Over 170 runners participated in the Half Marathon and over 178 in the 5K. We are hopeful that next year we can return to the beautiful Manasota Key venue!



MEALS

Through our Camp Heroes program, we were able to serve 644 children. During the pandemic, we have provided over 55,000 meals and snacks to children and families. Thank you to all of our generous donors that made this possible.

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.