



CONNECT TO THE CAUSE

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO THE HERNANDO COUNTY YMCA

JANUARY 2020

VOLUNTEERING FOR A BETTER US

The YMCA proudly supports the community through a large variety of programs we offer. One such initiative is our school age program which provides services to families by giving children a safe place to be before and after school hours. Parents are able to focus on their careers knowing that their children are happy, safe, making new friends and learning in their absence. Many of our families utilize our people helping people scholarships for this program which helps alleviate some of the cost of before and after care. Without the support of amazing donors like you, many children would not be able to take advantage of the Y's safe and nurturing place while their families are at work. One of the many children impacted by these essential before and after care programs is William Figueroa.

"When I first started at the YMCA, I didn't want to come at all. I felt it was for younger kids only and just wanted to stay home alone. My Dad signed me up in the YMCA with my brother to keep us busy and for somewhere safe to be after school he said. After a few days the staff saw I was really not enjoying my time at the Y so they talked to me about what I liked and what would make this more fun for me. I like doing stuff with my brother and I like to help people. The staff gave me a few options and I started to help with the younger kids reading to them and helping them with homework and now I really enjoy coming to the Y after school and being a 'big helper!' Thank you for helping me be able to come to the Y!"



WAYS TO PARTNER

Did you know there are many ways you can give to your local Y? How about gifting stock, matching gifts through your employer and more. For more information visit ymcasuncoast.org/give-better-us or contact Amber Slusser at aslusser@suncoastymca.org or 352-688-9622.

TAKE A TOUR

If you would like a tour of our community YMCA or would like to know more information about our programs and services that are strengthening the community, contact Amber Slusser, Executive Director, at 352-688-9622 or aslusser@suncoastymca.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 22

Winter Family Ball at 4-6 pm Free for members, \$3 per person for community members. Dress your best and join us for an elegant event of dancing and fun!

March 7th

Dr. Seuss Green Eggs and Ham Brunch at 11-1 pm. Free for members, \$3 per person for community members. Join us for a whimsical brunch featuring activities based on the classic book by Dr. Seuss, Green Eggs and Ham!

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Ashley D. Thomas



We are fortunate enough to have many donors who also volunteer their time in a variety of ways including being a part of our advisory council. One of those amazing people is Ashley Thomas, she shared a little bit of what the Y means to her and her family.

"The YMCA of the Suncoast holds a special place in my heart. Everyone is so friendly, so welcoming, and there is always fresh coffee waiting for you. I first became acquainted with the Y many years ago in Virginia and knew the organization as a gym and swim, but the Y has so much more to offer. Yes! my son has

officially learned how to swim because of the amazing swim instructors at the branch, but he also is greeted by Y staff each and every afternoon after school at his on-site Y after care program. The director and all of the staff go out of their way to make sure the children feel loved and appreciated. It has been an honor to serve as a council member of an organization that values and impacts the community in so many ways."

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA

LIVESTRONG is a twelve-week small group program designed for adult cancer survivors who have become de-conditioned or chronically fatigued from their treatment and/or disease. Since many cancer survivors find themselves burdened by medical bills, the program is offered at no cost to participants, and is funded through donations to the Community Support Campaign. With your generous donations and support we are able to offer this life-changing program! One of our recent LIVESTRONG graduates wanted to share some of their experience with you.

"At one point in my treatment, I realized that when my doctors kept telling me I would be fine, it meant that I would live. It's one thing to be alive, but another to regain the quality of life I had before the cancer. I was an athlete, a business professional, a mother, a grandmother. One year of cancer treatment left me too weak to do any of that. The LIVESTRONG program gave me my life back in more ways than just my strength. For all of us in the class, it gives us the opportunity to be more than fine, and to get our productive, amazing, loving, wonderful lives back!" - LIVESTRONG graduate.



SUPPORTING OUR CAUSE

Every year it is our goal to impact as many as we can that want to be healthier, who battle chronic disease, who need a safe place to go after school, and who need to be safe in and around water. If you know of an individual or business that would be interested in connecting to our cause and giving back to our community, please contact Amber Slusser at aslusser@suncoastymca.org.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cherie Creamer
Rob Foreman
Joel Fritton
Seton Hengesbach
Mike Irvin
Herb Johnson
Melissa Kehler
Tia McCormack
Manny Nieves
Derek Saunier
Joseph Sotomayor
Ashley Thomas
Lucinda Yoder

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Your support of the YMCA of the Suncoast will help our community learn, grow and thrive for generations to come. For more information on planned giving, please contact Ben Prewitt, Philanthropy Advisor at bprewitt@suncoastymca.org or (727) 467-9622.