



CONNECT TO THE CAUSE



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO THE GREATER RIDGECREST YMCA

WINTER 2020

LIVESTRONG at the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA



The Greater Ridgecrest YMCA will soon be home to a very special program called the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA. This is a free twelve week program for cancer survivors to help them reclaim their health. During and after treatment, cancer takes a tremendous physical and emotional toll on those affected and their families. Studies show that physical activity helps cancer survivors by reducing fatigue, boosting self-esteem and improving strength and physical endurance. Jim Feldman is a

participant in the LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA program at the North Pinellas YMCA and he is recently cancer free! According to Jim, "After starting the program, I noticed very quickly that I began to regain my strength and center of balance. I feel more energetic and walk with less pain. And best of all, I have built many lasting bonds and friendships here." This truly life changing program will begin at the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA this May! Please contact Sheri Jenney at sjenney@suncoastymca.org for more information.

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 Brad Barnes at bbarnes@suncoastymca.org or (727) 559-0500.

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 Brad Barnes, Executive Director, at (727) 559-0500 or bbarnes@suncoastymca.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Summer Camp Registration is open!
- February 8, 2020 Family Kickball
- February 12, 2020 Family Craft Night
- February 14, 2020 Valentine's Day Potluck Luncheon
- February 19, 2020 Pageant Registration opens
- February 21, 2020 Family Movie Night
- March 1, 2020 Soccer Registration Opens
- March 5, 2020 Strawberry Festival Trip
- March 14, 2020 Health and Wellness Fair

CAMPAIGN CHAMPION



Bambi Jones has been promoting the Y mission and serving as the Advisory Council Chair for the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA since 2018. A dedicated Y ambassador, Bambi recently won the Campaign Champion Leadership Award for outstanding leadership in the YMCA of the Suncoast 2019 Annual Campaign. A Clearwater native, and Seminole High School graduate, Bambi is an active volunteer in the community at her church and several other outreach programs, and has extensive experience

with the Bridging the Achievement Gap Program. Bambi is passionate about helping our youth get an opportunity for a better tomorrow. Her favorite part of volunteering for the Y has been the great feeling it is to affect someone's life in a positive way, "to give the kids a step up in life means the world to me, and makes all the difference." Over the last 12 years, all of Bambi's grandchildren have been a part of the Y, but the thing that has surprised her most is how involved the Y is with adults too. "The Y is just like church - don't just send your kids to church, go to church, and don't just send your kids to the Y go to the Y!" For Bambi, the Y is for family, not just for children or adults, but for family, and when you join or become involved, you become part of a greater family - the Y family.

GIVING TREE

Fun fact - did you know that your Greater Ridgecrest YMCA staff moonlight as Santa's Elves during the holiday season as part of the Giving Tree Program? Each year the Ridgecrest YMCA teams up with their sister YMCA, the North Pinellas YMCA, to bring Christmas to families in need in the Ridgecrest community. The Giving Tree is decorated with ornaments that have a child's name, age, and a gift wish from that child. The ornaments are available for members, staff, and volunteers from both branches to select and purchase a gift for that child. This year, 138 children from 52 families received at least two gifts each from our very generous Secret Santas. The families received the gifts at a special community event at the YMCA designed to celebrate the spirit of the season over a wholesome weeknight dinner sponsored by the Olive Garden. With Santa in attendance, a very merry time was had by all, and the children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas!



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 Brad Barnes at bbarnes@suncoastymca.org.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bambi Jones*
Reginald Reed Jr.
Ed Baldwin
Karalia Baldwin
Dr. Lewis Brinson
James Feazell Sr.
Dr. Brittany Moore
Dr. Brad Finkbiner
Johnathan Marina
Wanda McCawthan
Pastor Konrad McCree
Lois McKee
Steve Sorrells
*Advisory Council Chair

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.