



CONNECT TO THE CAUSE



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO THE CLEARWATER YMCA

MARCH 2020

Service & Leadership



Our Teen Leaders' Club is a year-long service and leadership development program for teens ages 13-18. It provides the teens the opportunity to learn the

benefits of volunteerism, to become a positive role model and to build relationships with others. The teens are paired with a YMCA advisor who serves in a positive mentor relationship to help guide and develop the teens and the program. The teens attend weekly club meetings and various trainings throughout the year. They not only organize, manage and volunteer at fun events such as Halloween at the Y and Breakfast with Santa, but host fundraisers, attend statewide Leaders' rallies and even have the opportunity to attend Blue Ridge Leaders School in Black Mountain, NC during the summer.

The focus of the program is to foster a sense of belonging and achievement for young people in the community and promote overall wellness, character development and volunteer service. Naomi Kerr, a participant, says "It means family, a place to belong. It's more than a club, it's my home."

Amiyah Ware says "Leaders is a second home. I love that I have been able to learn and grow with a group that inspires me to do more for myself and community."

Rachel Basmaci, Volunteer Advisor of the Teen Leaders, grew up participating in the program. She says, "I believe this program gives teens real world experience and an avenue for growth. This program, paired with the Y's mission and values enhances the success of each teen and sets them up for a brighter future."

DID YOU KNOW...

- 28 youth and teens developed leadership skills and character development through the Teen Leaders program.
- Over 1600 children learned swim skills and water safety in swim lessons.
- 600 youth had fun learning and developing sports skills.
- 24 children developed social and educational skills to be ready for kindergarten in the Early Learning Readiness program.
- 21 LiveSTRONG participants were served helping to get cancer survivors back on their feet through physical activity and building relationships with others affected by cancer.

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 information visit

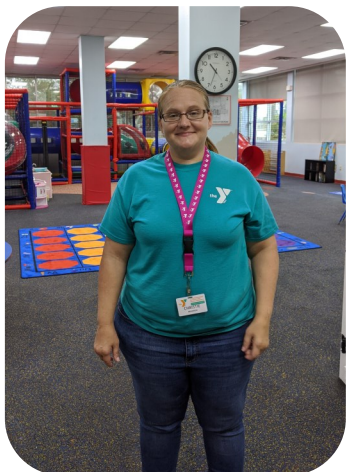
ymcasuncoast.org/give-better-us or contact Keith Quick at kquick@suncoastymca.org or (727) 461-9622.

TAKE A TOUR TODAY!

Please contact Keith Quick, Executive Director, at kquick@suncoastymca.org or call (727) 461-9622 if you would like a personal tour of the Clearwater YMCA!

Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Purpose through volunteering



Y member and volunteer, Christie Brannon initially brought her 7-month old daughter Trystin to learn to swim. Over the past 3 years, she has discovered so much more! Suffering serious health issues after the birth of her daughter, she was unable to work outside the home. The Clearwater Y has not only gained an outstanding volunteer, but has provided Christie and her daughter the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities. Christie volunteers in our Kid's Zone and is a campaigner as well. Her daughter Trystin has grown up in the Y, starting with swim lessons and graduating

from the Early Learning Readiness program, and now dance class and basketball. She has gone from being extremely shy to a leader in her pre-school class! "Receiving financial assistance through the PHP program has made a tremendous difference in our lives. Through volunteering, I have found a purpose. We have found a community at the Y and we have made friends. Trystin has grown in so many ways."

Multiplication Club

Last fall, Largo High students Jovi Elmazaj and Connor Wilson, worked with the Clearwater YMCA to create the Multiplication Club. As part of the IB program, students must complete a CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) project. In service to the community, each Tuesday afternoon from October 29th to January 7th, school age program participants at Skycrest Elementary School were able to take part in a fun series of math lessons that were taught by Jovi and Connor. In addition to volunteering with the Y, Jovi also holds a part-time job at Publix and volunteers with Hospice, and Connor actively volunteers with the Shriners Hospital and Largo Library.

"The experience was life changing. It was awesome!" proclaimed Jovi. Connor added "I had an amazing time helping others in the community, making the children's future just a little brighter."

Destiny Marry, School Age Program Director at Skycrest Elementary commented, "I was honestly sad on their last day. My kids enjoyed it. It was definitely challenging for them but in a good way. The boys are AWESOME! I want to say THANK YOU for giving us the opportunity! Jovi and Connor helped them more than they know! They gave them confidence!!! Thank you again!"



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Camp registration is open!

March 15—Spring Fling Dinner & Dance

March 16-19—Free Safety Around Water Week

March 19—Hard Rock Casino Bus Trip

March 20—Member Potluck

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Scott Ferguson
Veronica "Ronnie" Roper
Joseph Benavides
Eric Gandy
Nathan Matthews
Noel White
Deidre Drewes
Johnness Regan
Kay Coulter
Don Hedrick
Kristi Pettit
John Jaufmann
Aron Schlauf
Brandon Ketron
Mark Jones
Lisa Vaughan

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 Consultant at bprewitt@suncoastymca.org or (727) 467-9622.