



BUILDING POSSIBILITIES

YMCA OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Y TIMES Newsletter | Summer 2024

BUILDING LIFESAVING SKILLS



Drowning has claimed over 2.5 million lives in the last decade and Florida has the highest drowning rate in the United States. The greatest losses occur among 1 to 4-year-olds and adults over age 65.

In order to promote water safety within our community, the Boca and Boynton Ys organized a series of free swim lessons for non-swimming youth during National Water Safety month. Between May 28-31, our Boca and Boynton Ys had the opportunity to provide over 150 free swim lessons to non-swimming youth due to the generosity of the Piedt Family Swim Scholarship.



Our YMCA would like to thank ALL of our partners in Water Safety who are helping our community be safer, in and around the water!

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Paul & Kathy Adkins | Florida Blue Foundation | Rotary Club of Downtown Boca Raton |
| Boca West Children's Foundation | Florida State Alliance of YMCAs | USA Swimming Foundation |
| Chick-fil-A Boca Raton | Moss Foundation | WaterSmart Florida |
| Cognizant Classic Cares | Palm Health Foundation | WaterSmart Palm Beach County |
| Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County | Piedt Family Swim Scholarship | YMCA of the USA |
| Edward T. Bedford Foundation | Pool and Hot Tub Alliance / Step into Swim | |

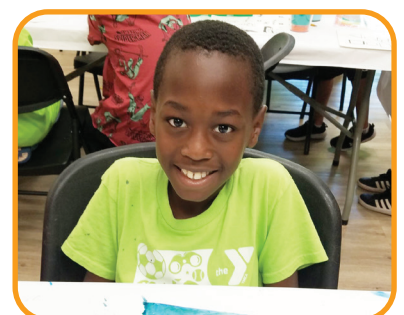
TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH FREE CAMP FOR CARIDAD KIDS

Thanks to the generosity of our community partners such as the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, the Batchelor Foundation, the Lattner Family Foundation, and the Town of Palm Beach United Way, our DeVos-Blum Family YMCA was thrilled to welcome 53 children and teens per week from the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach to attend summer camp at no cost.

These children, from families living at or below the poverty line, often face challenges

that can impact their physical and emotional health, cognitive abilities, and academic success. By attending our Y's camp, they engage in physical activities at least three times a week, promoting exercise and healthy lifestyle habits. They also participate in STEAM-based activities, drowning prevention programs, and field trips, all of which boost their personal development, increase self-confidence, and enhance their learning and performance.

"Summer camp for these kids is a transformative experience. It offers them opportunities they might not otherwise have, promoting independence, resilience, and a healthy lifestyle. These experiences contribute significantly to their overall personal development," explains Sandra Dejesus, Youth & Family Services Director for the DeVos-Blum Family YMCA.



MEET OUR PETER BLUM Y STAFF



Jacob Griem

Sports Director at the Peter Blum Family YMCA

Education: Sports Management Degree at Lynn University

How long have you been working at the Y?
I have been working at the Boca Y going on two years.

What was your career prior to working at the Y?
I had worked in a variety of different fields trying to get into the industry that I have a passion for – which is sports. I wouldn't say that I had a career before this but I had a lot of management experience through the various jobs that I had coming out of college.

What has been your favorite part about working for the Y and/or why are you passionate about working here? My favorite part about working here at the Y has to be seeing the youth in my programs grow, learn, get better, and love the game that they are playing. It is so rewarding when you see these kids' faces light up when they score their first basket, goal, or touchdown.

Ever since I was young, I knew that I wanted to work in sports in some way as I played just about every team sport possible growing up. I played three varsity sports in high school, played hockey in college, and simply had a passion for sports. I never had anything like the YMCA growing up in Michigan, so when I started working here, I knew that I wanted to give the kids experiences that I never had. The YMCA is a great place for any age child to start playing sports in a team setting and find out what sports they love the most.

THE Y RECEIVES \$55K DONATION TO SUPPORT TEEN PROGRAMS

The YMCA of South Palm Beach County was awarded \$55,000 in grant funding from the Truist Foundation in order to positively impact more than 950 local teens with Y programs and resources. The funds will be shared between the Peter Blum Family YMCA in Boca Raton and the DeVos-Blum Family YMCA in Boynton Beach.

This grant aims to empower at-risk teens by equipping them with the tools and resources needed to develop skills for future economic success. This funding will enable teens from minority and low to moderate-income households to participate in Y leadership and workforce development programs at no cost, such as Y Leaders in Training, Youth in Government,

Y Achievers Club, Blue Ridge Assembly Leaders school and more.

"Investing in our teens is one of the most impactful commitments we can make," said Bryan Hunt, Executive Director of the Peter Blum Family YMCA. "At the YMCA, we see firsthand how these programs empower young people to grow into confident, capable leaders. By providing a supportive environment and opportunities for personal development, we help teens build the skills and resilience they need to succeed and contribute positively to their communities."

A primary objective of Y teen programs is to prevent the decline of academic skills during long breaks from formal education and to ensure that teens have continuous

access to educational resources and support throughout the year. By offering consistent learning opportunities, these programs help at-risk teens stay engaged in their education, graduate from high school, and transition to college or the workforce, ultimately promoting their long-term success.

"Equipping and empowering at-risk teens with the skills necessary to develop into our future leaders aligns with Truist's purpose of inspiring and building better lives and communities," states Jason Aube, Market President for Truist. "It is an honor for Truist to support the worthwhile work of the YMCA of South Palm Beach County."

PRESCHOOLERS THRIVE WITH NEW MUSIC EQUIPMENT



Preschoolers at the DeVos-Blum Family YMCA are having a fantastic time enjoying new music equipment in their outdoor playground, made possible by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

"This new addition in our outdoor play area has been so exciting for the children! They love creating their own music on the new xylophone," states Shelley Freytag, Senior Director for the DeVos-Blum Family YMCA.

Music programs in preschool are vital for early childhood development. They enhance cognitive skills, boost language development, and foster creativity. Engaging in music helps improve social skills through teamwork and communication, while also promoting emotional expression.

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM OUR GRANTS AND SPONSORS*

Albert E. and Birdie W. Einstein Fund, Inc.
 American Heart Association
 Baptist Health South Florida
 The Batchelor Foundation
 Boca Rio Foundation
 Boca West Children's Foundation
 Cognizant Classic Cares

Community Foundation For Palm Beach and Martin Counties
 Edward T. Bedford Foundation
 First Horizon Foundation
 Florida Blue Foundation
 Florida State Alliance of YMCAs
 Lattner Family Foundation

Moss Foundation
 Palm Beach County Partnership For Aging, Inc
 Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department
 Palm Health Foundation
 Paycom Corporate Giving
 PNC Foundation
 Pool and Hot Tub Alliance / Step Into Swim

Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
 Schmidt Family Foundation
 Town of Palm Beach United Way
 Truist
 USA Swimming Foundation
 The Wawa Foundation
 YMCA of the USA

**As of July 22, 2024*



A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS

Our YMCA of South Palm Beach County's 2024 Heritage Club dinner reception was hosted at the Delray Dunes & Country Club, generously sponsored by Mary Blum. Our Y was proud to present the 6th annual prestigious Peter Blum Legacy award to Myrna Gordon Skurnick for her dedication and commitment to our YMCA.

Members of the Heritage Club give through their estate plans or by making immediate

contributions that can generate a life income or special tax benefits. Each year, those individuals who choose to place the YMCA of South Palm Beach County in their wills or estate plans become members of the Heritage Club.

If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving at the Y, please visit: ymcaspbc.org/plannedgiving

EMPOWERING SENIORS WITH CPR CLASSES AT THE Y

Generously funded by the American Heart Association, the Boca and Boynton YMCAs offer CPR classes for Seniors at no cost. Not only does learning CPR help boost confidence and promotes community safety, it equips

seniors with life-saving skills that can make a difference in emergencies. By knowing CPR, seniors can actively contribute to the well-being of those around them.

Classes are offered in partnership with iCert CPR and LifeSAVER CPR. To enroll in a class or learn more, contact Robin Nierman, Director of Community Health at rnierman@ymcaspbc.org or 561-300-3227.



IMPORTANT DATES

August 8, 2024

As part of Boca Chamber Festival Days in support of the Y, **Casino Night** will be held at the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center at Florida Atlantic from 5:30p-9p. Special thanks to Mario Bai, 2024 event Chair.
[YMCASPBC.ORG/EVENTS/CASINO-NIGHT](https://ymcaspbc.org/events/casino-night)

September 21-22, 2024

5th Annual Shoot for a Change, hosted at the Peter Blum Family YMCA. Big thanks to Michael Nathanson, event Chair.
[YMCASPBC.ORG/EVENTS/SHOOT-CHANGE](https://ymcaspbc.org/events/shoot-change)

October 2-3, 2024

The DeVos Blum Family Y and Peter Blum Family Y will host **Annual Giving Campaign Kick-Off** events on October 2nd & 3rd, respectively. This year our AGC will be co-chaired by Linda Gunn Paton and Nicole Grimes.

October 18-19, 2024

Generously sponsored by Publix Super Markets Charities, the DeVos-Blum Family Y and Peter Blum Family Y will host **Halloween at the Y** on October 18 and 19, respectively.
[YMCASPBC.ORG/HALLOWEEN](https://ymcaspbc.org/halloween)

November 2, 2024

Presented by JM Family Enterprises, **Corporate Cup Challenge** is our Y's premier adult field day that will be held at the Peter Blum Family YMCA.
[YMCASPBC.ORG/CORPORATECUPCHALLENGE](https://ymcaspbc.org/corporatecupchallenge)

Visit our website for the latest updates on YMCA events and activities: [YMCASPBC.ORG/EVENTS](https://ymcaspbc.org/events)



Friendly Otter Makes a Splash at the Y for Water Safety

Josh the Otter made a special visit to our Boca & Boynton Y Preschool classes to highlight the importance of being safe around the water. Our Preschoolers had the opportunity to listen to the book, "Josh the Baby Otter – A Tale Promoting Water Safety for Children", recite the water safety pledge, sing songs and, of course, meet Josh the Otter! Our Y is grateful for the Rotary Club of Downtown Boca Raton's continued partnership and generous sponsorship of this important water safety initiative.



Honoring Hispanic Heritage at the Y

We had a great time celebrating Latin culture and heritage with the community at *Baila Conmigo* at the Boca Y! Muchas gracias to our event chair, Fernanda Macedo and to our 2024 Presenting Sponsor, Go Solar Power.



Celebrating Healthy Kids in our Community

More than 4,000 people joined us at the Boynton and Boca Y for Healthy Kids Day! We had plenty of family fun activities and games, a Fun Run in Boynton, petting zoo, bounce houses, rock wall and more! Many thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, ADT for making this event a success.



A Hole in One Golf Classic

120 participants enjoyed our Boynton Y's 25th Annual YMCA Golf Classic hosted at the beautiful Indian Spring Country Club in Boynton Beach which raised \$46,405. Our Y would like to recognize presenting sponsor, Plastridge Insurance for their continued support of this event year after year.



Bikes for Y Tikes

Our Y's preschool grads received an amazing surprise due to a generous donation from Boca West Children's Foundation – each child received a brand new bicycle to take home at the graduation ceremony!

