

# BUILDING POSSIBILITIES YOUTH, TEENS & YOUNG FAMILIES



From camp to child care to afterschool activities to sports and more, the Y offers holistic programming that enhances, protects and nurtures the unique development journey of every child and teen. Today, the YMCA of South Palm Beach County serves 21,645 youth and teens.

## A GROWING NEED:

The lingering effects of the pandemic have been especially hard on our youth and teens.

The adverse effects on our youth, spanning from K-6 to teenagers, are troubling. A crisis in **teen mental health** has surfaced, characterized by rising thoughts of suicide and widespread feelings of hopelessness. Furthermore, children have experienced significant learning loss, with K-6 math and reading scores reaching historic lows.

There is a **lack of affordable child care** in our community. Many families are finding themselves without care because their Centers did not survive the pandemic. This has caused rippling ramifications for families including economic struggles and job stability. Compounding the situation is the substantial decrease in childcare workers compared to 2020, particularly affecting the low-income population, which bore a disproportionate impact from these challenges.

## OUR APPROACH:

To address the diverse and expanding needs of South Palm Beach County, our YMCA will significantly boost its service capacity by expanding facilities and reallocating space.

The Building Possibilities Campaign will allow us to expand youth and community spaces and offerings, including preschool, afterschool, teen programs and camp.



## SUSTAINABLE IMPACT:

**We anticipate the following impact over the next five years:**



### INFANTS, TODDLERS & YOUNG FAMILIES:

Increase childcare capacity by over 50%.



### YOUTH:

Increase Youth Sports by two-thirds and add more learning loss programs to reach more children, especially those from at-risk households.



### TEENS:

Double our Teen capacity and grow teen-focused after school and leadership activities.



### ALL KIDS & FAMILIES:

Increase involvement in youth programming, including youth sports, swimming, camp and afterschool care.

**Over the next 30 years, with your ongoing support, we aim to serve 30,000 more children, above and beyond our already growing base. The enduring impact, particularly for those from underserved families, will be felt the most.**



*Single mom to twin boys, Heather relies on our child care so she can work and continue classes toward becoming a Registered Nurse. "The Y is like family to us," said Heather. "The teachers have loved my boys since I brought them here at six months. They've been with them through teething, first steps, and countless nap times. Their little faces light up when they get to 'school' each day so they can play with friends and get extra snuggles from the staff. My life is a little crazy right now, so it means the world to me that I can drop my boys off at the Y and know they are in the best care while I am making a better life for us."*

*Each day, 253 infants and toddlers are cared for in our 3 child care center(s). The Building Possibilities Campaign will allow us to reach more kids.*