



YOUR IMPACT

JULY
2023

SOUTH SHORE YMCA DONOR NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear South Shore YMCA Supporter,

Summer is always a time to celebrate when you live in a climate like ours on the South Shore, with the short window of warmth from June to September, but this year we at the Y will be a little more festive than usual as the temperatures start to rise.

Back in 2019, we kicked off a capital campaign with great hopes and big dreams. We were primed to grow our facilities in many ways. We raised most donations extremely quickly, thanks to the generosity of our donors and the talents of the many volunteers on our campaign committee led by chair, Dan DeMarco. But, we all know what came next. The pandemic stopped us in our fundraising tracks, and everything – goals, hopes, dreams – were put on hold.

This summer, our capital campaign dreams will begin to be fulfilled. This June we opened our new Outdoor Aquatics Center at the Emilson Y, a state-of-the-art facility designed to meet all summer enjoyment needs, with pools, splash pads, playgrounds and more. If your kids will be among our Camp Gordon Clark campers this summer, they will be among the first to enjoy the new facility.

Speaking of camp, registrations have been coming in robustly for all of our camps in Quincy, Hanover, Norwell and on Cape Cod.

We say it every year, and it's always true. We are ready for the best summer ever for our campers. We are deeply grateful to you, our donors who have helped to send kids to camp this year, and have helped our camps grow in different ways. When the first campers arrive at Camp Burgess this year, they will be the first to try out our new treehouse, which you will read about inside this newsletter.

Our membership is strong, our farms and gardens are in bloom and, thanks to you, our donors, we are positively impacting lives on the South Shore in many ways. We will look for you at the Y this summer.

Sincerely,
Paul

Paul J. Gorman
President & CEO
South Shore YMCA



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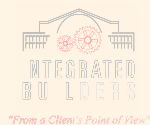
REGISTER FOR OUR EVENTS
[SSYMCA.ORG/EVENTS](https://ssymca.org/events)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE TASTE OF THE SOUTH SHORE



The last Taste of the South Shore at Lombardo's was as bittersweet as one could imagine, save for the food, of course. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, donors and guests, the evening raised over \$350,000 to directly benefit children's programs and camps at the South Shore YMCA, ensuring that every kid can be a "Y kid" and has equal opportunity to thrive at our Y. The event included the debut of a new video featuring Y kids young and old sharing the impacts that the Y has had on their lives, including the story of our own Ansley, now an employee of the Y.

Granted financial assistance as a kid, she is now working to support local families the same way she was. She's a living testament to the power of your donations. The Taste simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors including Integrated Builders, Quincy Mutual Group, South Shore Bank, Arbella Insurance, and Webster Bank. Special thanks to David Lombardo and his team, all the chefs, beverage companies and the audio-visual experts at Productive Media who bring the magic of the Taste to life each year. For the complete story and more fun-filled photos complete with videos from the event, please visit www.ssymca.org/events/taste-of-south-shore/ and also <https://ssymca.org/announcements/taste-of-the-south-shore-2023-honors-lombardos/>



SSYMCA FAMILY FARM CELEBRATES FARM-TO-SCHOOL EDUCATION

On Monday, June 5, the commissioners of the state Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Early Education and Care, with colleagues from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the state legislature joined the South Shore YMCA and Mass



Farm to School in celebrating the statewide launch of the MA FRESH farm-to-school education grant. As recipients of a first round grant, the Y taught 87 early

education teachers the basics of farm-to-school education at the Hanover Family Farm, as part of their ongoing professional development. The day featured a planting lesson demonstration by Hanover Early Learning Center

preschoolers and a farm-to-table lunch prepared by The Chef's Table of Marshfield.

South Shore Y President and CEO Paul Gorman thanked the many volunteer groups who help the Farm thrive each year. "When our vegetables leave this farm, those that don't end up in the preschool go to food pantries, including our Germantown Neighborhood Center food pantry, where they often become snacks for our afterschool students," he said. "Our campers at Camp Burgess in Sandwich harvest food to go directly into our dining halls each summer. We believe in the power of farm-to-school education." The Hanover Family Farm grows thanks to your donations and volunteer efforts.



GRANTS EMPOWER ALL TO BE SAFE IN WATER



The South Shore YMCA this year has proudly received numerous swim lesson-related grants that will help keep kids and adults safe around water in 2023 and beyond. YUSA and the USA Swimming Foundation are supporting both youth and teen/adult swim lessons. YUSA has further granted the South Shore Y \$35,000 to run a community engagement project with the Quincy schools, getting every second grader in the city into lessons this year at the Hale Y. The Pool and Hot Tub Alliance has granted \$5,000 for swim lessons and two other grants - \$10,000 from the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and \$2,500 from Bass Pro Shops - will cover the purchasing of AEDs for swim areas and lifejackets for kids learning to swim at the Emilson Y respectively. All tallied, our aquatics programs will realize a boost of more than \$75,000 in grants this year that will enable hundreds of South Shore residents to look at life around water in a whole new way.

A Treehouse Rises at Camp Burgess

Cape Cod has its own habitat, known as the pine barrens, a globally rare ecosystem that has unusual dips and rises in terrain. One drop-off sits next to the Camp Burgess dining hall, leaving the trees that grow from its lowest point reaching just above the base levels of trees growing from the rim. So, what happens when you build a footbridge level with the dining hall area into that gap? Campers walk into the pine barrens canopy, without any climbing.



Thanks to a lead gift from generous donor and camp community member Wendy Stewart and a match from YUSA's Strategic Initiative Fund, a fully accessible "new treehouse" now stands at Camp Burgess. The two-story treehouse is now a new project area, a new outdoor sleeping site, and a new way for all campers – including kids who use wheelchairs – to better understand the nature of this amazing habitat. Wendy is a dedicated member of our camp community, the mother of children who attended and benefitted from camp. Thanks to her support, and that of other donors to Camp Burgess and Hayward, the Y is always improving and enhancing facilities for current and future campers. Tours of the camps, including the treehouse, are available by contacting Joyce MacDonald at jmacdonald@ssymca.org or 781-985-6253.

JUSTIN SHARES LAURA'S LOVE

Local tennis players continue to embrace the sport with a passion unabated since the days when the old Mill Pond Tennis Club was converted to become the Emilson Y. Each year we see the enthusiasm for the sport on display during the Laura's Love event. This April was no different. Tennis teams donated raffle baskets and peer-to-peer fundraisers, many of them members of the Lob-Stars adaptive tennis team, helped raise over \$60,000 this year. Some of the star athletes are also star fundraisers.



Justin, one team member, also works for the Y. On some days he transitions straight from his work clothes to his tennis gear. Justin's grown up with the Lob-Stars, and has played in tournaments up and down the East Coast, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and more. Now, he's a recruiter. "We're trying to get more players, to grow our team," he said. "We invite them to play, and if they like it they join the team."

Justin wears a third hat, as a Y fundraiser. He solicits donations through Facebook and other means, including making face-to-face requests for funds to support his team. "We can buy better equipment and gear," he said, but his goals are even higher than that. He wants to teach younger players how to play tennis. "I like to help out making it better for them," he said. "Sometimes they have trouble with their strokes. I want to teach them." This year he has personally raised \$6,000. Those funds will remove barriers and provide financial assistance so everybody can participate in Y programs and services. And, if Justin has his way, they will help grow the sport he loves so much, at his Y.

STEM EDUCATION

The South Shore YMCA's Natural Science Center's mission to bring quality STEM education to youths across the region received a major boost this past year when Battelle granted the South Shore YMCA \$100,000 to bring climate change education to after school programs. Students in Quincy, Norwell and Scituate participated in climate change action projects that included beach cleanups, waste sorting, maple tree planting, snack pouch and crayon recycling and more. Students submitted data to citizen science projects like World Water Monitoring Project and Trash Free Seas to better understand the impacts every individual can have on our environment when we all work together for a healthier planet. As the school year winds down, we can now tally 1,072 kids who have been impacted by these projects. And, as the Y is a champion of out-of-school time education, we are estimating that 2,000 more will be impacted by the end of summer camp. We thank Battelle for our ongoing partnership in the mission to provide environmental education for all across the region.



BATTELLE

There's always something happening at the Y!

Scan the QR code below to visit our Announcements page at ssymca.org to read even more about the impact you make as a Y donor.



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Upcoming Events

- Camp Burgess & Hayward Alumni Event – September 2
- Corn Festival – September 16 and 17
- Rodman Ride – September 23

Volunteers needed to serve on these committees and help at the events. Please contact: Mary Orne, morne@ssymca.org; 781-264-9453

THANK YOU TO FARM VOLUNTEERS!



Some of the oldest sayings are the truest, like "Many hands make for light work." When you apply a saying like that to a farm, a truism becomes visible. This spring the SSYMCA Family Farm in Hanover has benefitted from the support of multiple volunteer groups, including representative teams from Armark, ESG Global, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Norwell's First Parish Church, City Wide Facility Solutions and the Boy Scouts of Troop 38 in Hanover. Outstanding individual volunteers include Alex

Clark. Weeds have been pulled, plants planted, and even aesthetic touches have been made. With much work to go for the rest of the year, please contact Joyce MacDonald at jmacdonald@ssymca.org if you'd like to help feed our South Shore community this year by volunteering at the Hanover farm. We also have a smaller "farm" at our South Shore YMCA Germantown Neighborhood Center that has also benefited from amazing volunteers from State Street, Point 32 Health, Life Community Church, Fidelity, and Arbella. Outstanding volunteers also include Paul Mollica, Hui Xia Liu, Erin Williams and Myles Prudente from Rockland Trust. Please contact, Sandy at sbouchard@ssymca.org to volunteer. Thank you to all of our volunteer teams!

THE SOUTH SHORE YMCA | THE BETTER YOU BELONGS HERE.

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