



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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YMCA of Southwest Florida and Child Protection Center Join Five Days of Action to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse

VENICE, Florida – YMCA of Southwest Florida and Child Protection Center have partnered to participate in the Five Days of Action, April 24-28, 2023. The Five Days of Action is a weeklong campaign to raise awareness and inspire adults to take action to protect children from sexual abuse.

The Know. See. Respond. campaign is back this year. And Gene T. Jones, YMCA of Southwest Florida President and CEO, and Doug Staley, Executive Director of Child Protection Center, kicked off the campaign on April 24th at the YMCA by signing a pledge of their commitment to their continued partnership and efforts to protect children from sexual abuse.

YMCA of Southwest Florida and Child Protection Center encourage adults and organizations to join in making this special week as organizations in Southwest Florida comes together to make the community a safer place for children to live, learn, and play. With summer right around the corner—when children gather for activities and camps, it is a wonderful time to bring attention to the simple ways we can all make the children in our community safer.

“Every child has the right to a happy and safe childhood, and it's our responsibility as adults and organizations to stand up to protect that right,” said Gene T. Jones. “By joining in the Five Days of Action campaign, we hope to inspire other organizations and members of our community to create safe spaces that protect children from sexual abuse.”

Doug Staley, agrees, “April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we’re so grateful to partner with YMCA of Southwest Florida to raise greater awareness of the issue at hand. Child abuse is a real problem in our own backyard, and it takes all of us to make a change. When we work together to bring abuse out of the shadows, the safety nets around our children are strengthened. All of us working together allows for children to turn from victim to survivor, into one who thrives.”

Two-third of cases seen by Child Advocacy Centers are child sexual abuse cases. If a member of the community spots red flags or concerns, contact the Abuse Hotline 1-800-962-2873. If you want to get involved, stop by your local YMCA and join the movement by signing the pledge and committing to helping raise awareness of child sexual abuse in your community.

For more information about the Five Days of Action, visit <https://www.ymca.org/what-we-do/youth-development/child-care/five-days-action>. Additional resources and information on preventing child abuse, visit the Child Protection Center’s website at www.cpcsarasota.org.

For more information on YMCA of Southwest Florida, community members are encouraged to contact Jamie Browning, Vice President of Development, YMCA of Southwest Florida, at (941) 492-9622 or JBrowning@ymcaswfl.org.

YMCA BRANCHES

Bonita Springs YMCA
Bradenton YMCA
Englewood YMCA
Fort Myers YMCA
Franz Ross YMCA
Lakewood Ranch YMCA
Punta Gorda YMCA
Venice YMCA

SKY ACADEMIES

SKY Academy Englewood
SKY Academy Venice

EARLY LEARNING ACADEMIES

Charlotte Harbor YMCA
Early Learning Academy

The Suwyn Early Learning Academy
at Bonita Springs YMCA

Venice YMCA
Early Learning Academy

YMCA Early Learning Academy
at PGT Innovations

OFFSITE LOCATIONS

Cooper Street Recreation Center
YMCA Camp Estero

ALSO SERVING

Cape Coral
Clewiston
Estero
Labelle
Lehigh Acres
Moore Haven
North Port
Sarasota

About YMCA of Southwest Florida

YMCA of Southwest Florida is a leading non-profit strengthening southwest Florida communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Driven by its founding mission, the Y has served as a leading non-profit committed to strengthening community for more than 175 years. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y aims to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Desoto, Hendry and Glades Counties.