



ABOUT THE Y

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. **The SKY Family YMCA has been providing pre-school care for over 35 years.**

We are one of the few centers in our area that care for children as young as 6 weeks. This pre-school serves many North Port families that live at or below the poverty level and serves foster families.

NEW MODEL AT THE Y

With one of the Y's main focuses being youth development, we are changing our early learning model from traditional "Daycare" to Early Childhood Education Centers and branding them as **"SEA" Sunshine Education Academies**. This model program will include the Waldorf School of Education philosophies. We have hired an Executive Director to lead this effort, once the model is complete it will be implemented in all of our locations.

Our SKY YMCA currently has five Early Learning Centers located in Venice, North Port, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. **Our centers currently serve 420 infants through five year olds enrolled.**

The most recent center opened April 2, 2018 through collaboration with PGT. A new center is also under construction on our Venice Y campus with expected completion in August 2018.



STATEMENT OF NEED

Thy SKY Family YMCA through the acquisition of Charlotte County Family YMCA acquired the North Port Pre-School located on Sam Shapos Way.

The building is in very poor condition and not conducive to providing a quality experience for the children entrusted in our care.

Our SKY Family YMCA would like the opportunity to partner with the City of North Port to construct and operate a first rate care and learning environment for the young families of the North Port Community. There are few providers of care in North Port and with the continued growth of the community finding quality and affordable care for young families is very difficult.

CURRENT OBSTACLES

Although, the North Port facility and program are licensed, the center does not meet all current guidelines and licensing standards for the Department of Children and Families and Department of Health. The facility is currently licensed through “grandfathered” clauses. The following provides some of the deplorable issues with the current building.

Inappropriate and unsanitary flooring in classrooms.

This doesn't allow for “messy play” which is essential for sensory development. The flooring was left over from the previous use as a fitness center.



Due to high ceilings

it is required to use a lift machine for cleaning all ceiling tiles, light fixtures and air vents, which is a safety and health hazard. The City of North Port and the Department Health requires quarterly assessments.

High ceilings and noise level, no actual walls. Highly distractive and stressful for children.

Kitchen

does not meet the needs to prepare and store the necessary food to provide free breakfast, lunch and snack.



Age 1

playground location requires children to pass the pool.

Age 2

playground barrier does not meet requirement for Department of Health.

Age 3-5

playground and basketball court does not have required line of site for all square footage. Playground doesn't meet safety requirement for fall zones as play area is all concrete. Therefore no climbing equipment which is essential for health and growth.

No windows

in any classrooms, no natural light. Highly recommended by the Department of Health for youth development.

Classroom sizes

do not meet new guidelines nor allow for proper teacher to student ratio.



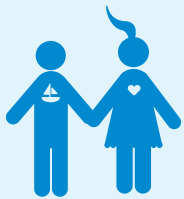
No bathroom or sinks in classrooms.

Current bathrooms are not in line of site, students must use bathroom as a group. Current VPK bathroom is not sanitary and is currently in non-working condition due to damaged plumbing underground.

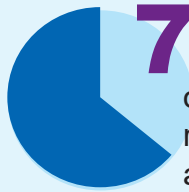
The major concern is for the safety and well being of the children entrusted in our care. As stated this environment poses safety concerns and is not conducive to the positive growth of our children.

COMMUNITY SERVED

60% of families enrolled in the North Port center are considered “working poor” living at or below the federal poverty level. More than 20% of our children spend over 57 hours a week in our care. **The assistance provided by the YMCA is essential to these families, the facts below is current assistance the Y provides.**



67 children enrolled (at capacity) ages 6 weeks to VPK or 5 years.



75%

of children served are receiving financial assistance.

The average awarded is **50%** off the weekly fee.

The Y anticipates providing over
\$77,000
annually in financial assistance.



100%
free breakfast, lunch and snack daily.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The existing structure should be demolished with the new center constructed on the same site. This site could also possibly include the area where the empty portable unit is located. Portable units could be leased during construction as to not interrupt the needed care for families.



Licensed capacity should increase to at least **120** infant through five year old children.

This new center would be included within our “SEA” initiative with licensing through the Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalition and Voluntary Pre Kindergarten. This would be a mission driven location with scholarship assistance continuing to be provided. The facility should also include much needed space for full day camp programs for school age children as again this is a great need in the community.

Depending on total project scope, the expected construction budget will be in the \$2.4 million dollar range.

For reference, the construction budget at the Venice YMCA Center is \$1.9 million dollars. The PGT center budget was \$2.2 million dollars. We would look to the City of North Port to fund the construction of the facility with the Sky Family YMCA serving as the operator. We have toured the facility with leaders from the GulfCoast Community Foundation and they have verbally agreed to partner with us to help provide the necessary supplies, furnishings and playground equipment.

