



For Immediate Release  
Contact: Crystal Rothhaar  
(941) 320-8120

## **Manatee YMCA to kick off Grand Opening Celebration of Thrift Shop in Palmetto with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

BRADENTON, FL (July 12, 2017) – The Manatee YMCA will hold a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for its new YMCA Nifty Thrift Shop, located at 627 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. in Palmetto, across from Walmart and behind McDonalds, on **Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**. The celebration will be open to the public and will include refreshments and raffles.

The official Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, August 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Grand Opening day there will be food, inflatables for kids, prizes, vendors, discounts and more. The event is free and open to the public.

This year, the Children’s Services Advisory Board of Manatee County has identified substance abuse, learning achievement gaps, behavioral health, bullying, and healthy lifestyles issues as their top priorities. The Manatee YMCA provides services and programs for these community issues and more, working for positive social change to move Manatee County forward.

All proceeds from the YMCA Nifty Thrift Shop will go to support local families and children through programs such as gang prevention, mentoring, swim lessons, safe places for before/after school care and camp, and youth sports/healthy living for those who might not otherwise be able to afford them.

The 9,000 square foot store will be light and bright, and will sell items such as clothing, furniture, baby and children’s goods, books, art work, electronics, sporting goods, and more. YMCA Members will receive a store discount. Donations can be dropped off at any of the YMCA branches in Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch, or Parrish, or at the Thrift Shop location in Palmetto. Local pick-up and delivery of large items is available by calling (941) 212-4652. Y Members will receive a 10% off discount with their Y membership card.

“Our thrift store is going to be about value, shopping experience, and giving back,” said Sean Allison, CEO of the Manatee YMCA. “We want to cater to everyone, from all demographics and income levels, so that they can find things that are one-of-a-kind. This thrift shop will help us help even more families and kids in Manatee County.”

For more information about the Manatee YMCA Nifty Thrift Shop, call (941) 212-4652 or visit [manateeymca.org](http://manateeymca.org).

**The Manatee YMCA is a local nonprofit committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. With a mission to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Manatee YMCA branches are located in Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch, Pride Park, and Parrish.**

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