

South County YMCA

“Fulfilling A Promise”



Manatee County YMCA
Spring 2017

Introduction

For the past 20 years, the Y has operated programs in the 'Pride Park' neighborhood located in the center of South Manatee County, in U.S. Census Tracts 3.05 and 3.06 (See Diagram 1) and crime report grids 2013 and 2024. Census tract 3.05 has been the primary focus for most of the Y's work working against the affects of poverty, drug abuse, human trafficking, and gang activity. The Manatee County Y is proposing to build a 30,000 square foot center on the southern boundary of the 3.05 census tract. The project will cost \$8,000,000 and will provide services to an area comprised of twenty census tracts in South Manatee County.

Established in 1974, the Manatee County YMCA is the area's leading not-for-profit for promoting healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. Its mission is, "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all." By the end of 2016 the Manatee Y served 17,443 members. No one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay. In 2016 the Y awarded \$622,266 in financial assistance and scholarships. (See Attachment 1, "Build More Than Muscle" 2016 Annual Report.) The Manatee Y operates three service center branches; the Lakewood Ranch Y, The Bradenton Y, and the Parrish Y. The Y also runs programs in twenty more locations.

Diagram 1



This proposed South County Y facility is a natural and much needed expansion of the work the Y is already doing. It is also the fulfillment of a promise for a community center that was made to this community over 30 years ago. The facility will house needed programs and serve as a hub for other community organizations to headquarter their services as well. As an example of what has been done in the community in 2007 gang violence in Manatee County had climbed to the top five among all Florida counties. The YMCA led an effort to implement OJJDP Youth Gang Prevention, Invention and Suppression program in Pride Park, which was the center of the county's gang problem. Between July 2007 and June 2010, the Manatee County Sherriff's Department reported a 70% reduction in Part I Crimes for persons under 18 years of age. (see Attachment 2a and 2b MCSO Crime Stats) During the same period the total number of gangs operating in Pride was sharply reduced. In all, twenty-one community organizations worked together creating outreach services and youth programs that continue today like adopt-a-block, in school mentoring, Latino Moms, back-to-school drives, clothing drives, food drives, youth soccer, basketball, and tackle football are all still in operation. The Y continues to work closely with the Sherriff's Department to intervene and suppress gang activity. The next step is to provide permanent facility that will grow and expand these programs.

"The YMCA has been instrumental in providing physical, social, emotional, and academic needs to our learners. Helped move students from risk to resiliency. We are in support of a YMCA in Pride Park to support the neighborhood." - Lisa Healthcote, AP, Daughtrey Elementary School.

Our research confirms that the proposed YMCA in the 3.05 census tract will serve a total of 20 census tracts in South Manatee County with a strong probability of reaching 4000 households. The impact in Pride Park is obvious in terms of direct services and by attracting people from a broader region, a new community will be created that will strengthen the entire county.

Statement of Needs (Cont.)

The Demographics of 3.05

Among Manatee County's 77 census tracts, here is how census tract 3.05 ranks in some key measurement areas. The 3.05:

- is the 3rd largest in population 6071,
- has 1686 occupied households of which 1179 are rentals,
- ranks 8th in density per square mile,
- has the 2nd highest percentage of the households with children under 18 (48.5%),
- has the lowest median age 26,
- ranks 2nd in population per household 3.82,
- ranks 2nd in female-lead households (28.3%),
- has the lowest Per Capita Income,
- and has the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino (58%).

The Children

Manatee County Children's Service's Department and the Children's Services Advisory Board each year makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for funding programs that seek to improve the welfare of children. In their annual plan published December 13, 2016 for funding year 2017/2018, they identified among their many priorities for Manatee County's children the need for programs that will decrease summer learning loss, improve third grade reading proficiency, reduce the instances of bullying for elementary and middle school age children, and reduce childhood obesity. The proposed South County Y's location is ideal for positively impacting each of these priority areas. There is no shortage of examples and data from studies that verify the benefits of providing children with opportunities for positive behaviors through programs and youth servicing facilities. Those benefits include for reductions in delinquency, violence, drug use, school truancy, teen pregnancy, and dropping out of school. The South County Y will create a new diverse and supportive community that will add in the social emotional development of young children.

The proposed facility is within walking distance of Daughtrey Elementary School (.2 miles) and Harllee Middle School (.25 miles). It is ideal for school partnerships that will improve academic performance and safety. Students will be in walking distance to a variety of before and afterschool programs and services.

The Most Needed Services for the Area Population

The Manatee County Y found that a majority of the people in the service area describe themselves as 'inactive', which tends increase numerous individual health risks. Having access to an outdoor pool for recreation and swim lessons is a high need. Indoor facility space for fitness, teens, children, and sports was also a high priority. Having a facility that could support multiple community service and outreach programs, parent/child social and recreation programs, health and therapeutic programs, education and lifeskills, and a variety of group programs for health and exercise. Day camps and before and afterschool programs were also a high priority as was spaces for community meetings for both social and support group activities. A facility that offered these programs and services would draw between 3000 and 4000 households as participants and members. The Manatee County Y has a proven track record providing these types of services.

Program Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce Juvenile Crimes involving people under age 18 in Pride Park as measured by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, by 25% in the first three years after opening the South County Y.

OBJECTIVE 2: Annually enroll 400 South County Youth in Before and After School programs that will positively impact academic performance, school behavior and school attendance. In the 3.05 census tract there are 1400 school aged children alone.

OBJECTIVE 3: Annually increase the reading skills of children in the lower quartile from Daughtrey Elementary School at least one grade level.

OBJECTIVE 4: Annually enroll 125 students grades 1-8 in summer day programs that improves behavioral health, provides nutritional services, and decreases summer learning loss.

OBJECTIVE 5: Annually provide 200 low-income children with a free swimming program that will teach swimming skills and water safety.

OBJECTIVE 6: Provide support services to a minimum of 12 partner agencies serving children and families in Pride Park.

OBJECTIVE 7: Annually train and employ 80 Y impact Volunteers in program and outreach services that will produce over 1000 volunteer service hours.

OBJECTIVE 8: Annually enroll 400 youth and teens in sports and fitness that teaches Y values, helps kids combat factors related to youth obesity, and reinforces positive behavior.

OBJECTIVE 9: Annually enroll 1600 adults in health and fitness programs for beginning exercisers, medically motivated, the overweight, and the inactive. 70% of those who are active for 12 weeks will report significant personal health changes.

OBJECTIVE 10: Annually enroll 120 teens and young adults in lifeskills classes to assist work and education seekers skills needed to continue education and career pursuits. 75% of program enrollees will report positive advancement toward their career and educational goals.

Methods

1. YMCA Youth Sports Programs
 - a. Programs are offered year-around. Programs include Soccer, Swimming, Basketball, and Football.
 - b. Programs are directed by trained Y professional staff.
 - c. Programs use parent and community volunteers.
 - d. Programs are designed for youth ages 6 to 14.
 - e. Programs teaches fundamentals of the sports and includes mentoring, teaches self discipline, creates a team/family dynamic, reinforces positive attitudes and behaviors, and redirects negative behaviors.
 - f. Youth sports reinforces the SEL competencies of Relationship Skills, Self-Management, and Self-Awareness.

2. Enhance the Fundamental Security and Well-Being of Children
 - a. Safe Place-Y Facility
 - i. Zero Tolerance for Bullying, Gangs, Violence, Weapons, Drugs, and Alcohol.
 - ii. Staff background checked and trained to serve children.
 - iii. Access to the facility is controlled.
 - b.

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