



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONNECT TO THE CAUSE

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO THE GREATER RIDGECREST YMCA

SUMMER 2019

MISSION MOMENT BRIDGING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP



The Greater Ridgecrest YMCA is the proud provider of an amazing program called Bridging the Achievement Gap or BTAG. The focus of this program is to provide middle and high school students the opportunities they need to unlock academic achievement and open career doors. Through BTAG, students not only thrive, they are given great opportunities to achieve personal growth. One recent graduate of the program, Michael Robinson, is a shining example of the difference this program can make in the lives of its participants.

Prior to joining the program, Michael struggled in many aspects of his life. A primary problem was

that he did not have access to food at home and consequently struggled at school. As a result, Michael lacked the self-esteem and confidence that would allow him to mature into the man he wanted to become.

While attending the YMCA, Michael received healthy meals on a consistent basis. He was also introduced to the BTAG program which provided tutoring. With this invaluable support and help from mentors, he was able to focus on schoolwork and improved his grades. BTAG opened up many pathways for Michael, and led him to Job Corps. Through Job Corps workforce training, Michael earned his high school diploma, achieved a certification in the electrical trade and obtained a driver's license. Michael says, "The lessons I learned while attending YMCA programs have helped ensure that I enjoy a bright future."

DID YOU KNOW....

One by one, we are building a better us. Every dollar donated has a lasting impact on kids, adults, and families right in your community. Together, we are building a better us.

BRIDGING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP and TEEN ACHIEVERS

- 2,190 students served
- 1,598 graduated with high school diplomas
- 407 graduated from college/university
- 117 graduated from technical/vocational programs
- 10 earned a master's degree



TAKE A TOUR TODAY!

Please contact Brad Barnes, Executive Director, at bbarnes@suncoastymca.org or call (727) 559-0500 if you would like a personal tour of the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA!

Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

ADVISORY COUNCIL PROFILE

Reggie Reed Jr.



Reggie Reed Jr. is the Director of Recruitment at St. Petersburg College and the co-owner of Reggie Reed Roofing. Reggie holds a bachelor's degree in Employment Relations and a master's degree in Kinesiology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Additionally, Reggie is a state licensed roofing contractor and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in Higher Educational Leadership at the University of South Florida. When Reggie moved to St Petersburg, he saw how strong the Y was in the com-

munity. He was introduced to the BTAG Program at the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA and was amazed to learn how the YMCA of the Suncoast was so involved and committed to the communities they serve. Reggie has been a supporter of the YMCA and BTAG ever since. Reggie lives in St Petersburg, with his wife Courtney and their daughter Leah. His mission is to inspire and empower others to accomplish their dreams and aspirations. His message to students: "Life is one big roller coaster. You have to take the good with the bad. They are all learning experiences. Those learning experiences will mold and groom you into the person you are meant to be."



ANNOUNCING OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!



**ERVIN R.
HART**



**KYRELL
BRANCH**

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bambi Jones*
Reginald Reed Jr.
Ed Baldwin
Karalia Baldwin
Dr. Lewis Brinson
James Fezell Sr.
Dr. Brittany Moore
Dr. Brad Finkbiner
Johnathan Marina
Wanda McCawthan
Pastor Konrad McCree
Lois McKee
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*Advisory Council Chair

GREATER RIDGECREST YMCA

SENIOR STAFF

Brad Barnes
Executive Director
Caleb Mitchell
Senior Program Director
Shannon Wynn
Business Director
Brandon Massey
Sports Coordinator
Sheri Jenney
Fitness Coordinator

WAYS TO PARTNER

Did you know there are many ways you can give to your local Y? How about gifting stock, matching gifts through your employer and more. For more information visit ymcasuncoast.org/give-better-us or contact Brad Barnes at bbarnes@suncoastymca.org or (727) 507-9622.