



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

November 1, 2021

Dear Valued Member,

When the YMCA of the Suncoast first opened the Clearwater YMCA more than 50 years ago, it was built to serve a new community's emerging and underserved needs for health and wellness services. As the diverse community has grown, the need for a more functional facility has become evident. With that in mind, we are **excited to announce a new partnership** with LiFT Academy who will expand from their Seminole location into the YMCA facility at 1005 S. Highland Avenue.

LiFT Academy will repurpose the Clearwater YMCA facility to serve as a community asset - offering a warm, nurturing place where neurodiverse students of all academic levels in Kindergarten through 12th grade can excel. **One in 68 children** are identified as autistic, and that percentage continues to grow each year. There is a great need for more services and programs for neurodiverse children in the community, so it made perfect sense for us to take advantage of an opportunity to partner with LiFT academy. We believe the Clearwater YMCA building is better suited to offer small classrooms, individualized accommodations and innovative teaching techniques for LiFT Academy.

What does this mean for Y members? We will **maintain a presence** in the Clearwater community. The Clearwater YMCA will **temporarily move services** to other locations while working to build a brand **new state-of-the-art facility**, next to the current facility. As we work to raise the appropriate funds to rebuild a more functional and efficient YMCA to meet the present and future community needs, we will continue to offer Y programs and services as the "Clearwater YMCA in Motion" meeting community needs where they are.

Our plans include swim lessons, group exercise classes, youth sports in the adjacent fields surrounding the Clearwater Y and continuing Camp COAST for children with autism and developmental disabilities. We are also exploring public-private partnerships to **better serve** the community.

As a current Clearwater Y member, you'll have the opportunity to choose from several membership options while we complete construction on the new Clearwater YMCA facility. **Be on the lookout** for a letter with membership options and pricing, and be sure to **follow us** on Facebook for more updates.

It is truly a pleasure to serve the community through the YMCA of the Suncoast, and we look forward to building a brand new Clearwater Y with you.

Sincerely,

G. Scott Goyer
President/CEO

Matt Crum
Chairman, Board of Directors