



**BUILDING
POSSIBILITIES**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
YMCA OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY



Meet our Vice President of Development **Shea Ciarletta**

What drew you to the YMCA of SPBC, and what about its mission resonates most with you?

I think what drew me to the YMCA was its incredible reach within the community. At first glance, you might think of the Y as a gym, a place for youth sports, or a community center – and yes, it is all those things. But it's so much more. It's a place where preschoolers learn to read and write, where individuals with special needs feel welcome and thrive through programs like Chase's Place. It's a safe space for students after school when parents are working, and a place where teens discover leadership skills that will shape their future. The Y truly is for everyone – every age, every background. There is something here for all.

What excites you most about building relationships with donors and partners in our community?

My fundraising philosophy has always been donor centric. It begins with building genuine relationships. People often say asking for money is hard, but the truth is, people give to causes they care about. Supporters aren't just names on a list – they're individuals with passions and values. What excites me most about this donor centric approach is learning what motivates them and what makes them feel good about their impact. I love connecting with people and discovering what inspires them to make a difference.

What do you see as the biggest opportunity for growth or impact at the Y over the next few years?

I think our biggest opportunity for growth is our Building Possibilities campaign, which we are in the middle of right now. We've outgrown our existing facilities, and expanding our space is essential to meet the demand. Our Building Possibilities campaign is focused on bringing new facility enhancements, redesigned spaces, and upgrades to our YMCAs. This will allow us to host more students in preschool, retain more of our current members with new wellness options, and build more programs into our mission that creates more opportunities to impact the community. It is time to grow, I have very high hopes for our future.

What do you see as the most important role philanthropy plays in strengthening our Y and the communities we serve?

I believe philanthropy drives our community, but even more important than philanthropy is service. Service is the backbone of who we are. In South Palm Beach County, we are fortunate to have people who give not only financially, but also through their time and talents. Born and raised in Boca Raton, I've seen firsthand how our community thrives on a service mentality. We have a vibrant nonprofit sector supported by the generosity of business and community leaders. Service is, in my view, the most important lesson and the greatest characteristic we can embody – because the more we serve others, the more we grow as individuals and as a community.