



*Educating the public on the importance of safety while celebrating the joys of water sports.*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Contacts: Mary Vail, MBA Publicist, Float Like A Duck  
maryvailmba@gmail.com 702-289-2225 cell  
Ashley Shewey, YMCA of Southern Nevada  
ashewey@lasvegasyymca.org 702.877.7249

**Float Like A Duck, Water Safety Initiative Receives Step Into Swim Grant**

***YMCA of Southern Nevada- Safety Around Water Program to benefit from Grant Funds***

(LAS VEGAS, NV) September 14, 2021 - Float Like A Duck™, a water safety initiative presented by Paragon Pools in Las Vegas, NV received a grant from Step Into Swim, the Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) drowning prevention initiative. The grant funds of \$5,000, will be utilized in a collaboration with Float Like a Duck and the YMCA of Southern Nevada’s Safety Around Water Program.

“We would like to thank the Step Into Swim Champions Board for recognizing the value of our Float Like A Duck-water safety initiative and our partnership with the YMCA of Southern Nevada - Safety Around Water swimming program,” states Joseph Vassallo, CBP president of Paragon Pools and founder of Float Like A Duck. “We are very excited to receive the grant of \$5,000.00. Many at-risk youths in the community will benefit from the grant funding by participating in the program at no-cost to the students.”

Since 2016, Float Like a Duck and Paragon Pools has supported the YMCA’s Safety Around Water with funding to provide support for the program that provides no-cost swimming classes to the Las Vegas community. To date close to 1,200 children have been enrolled in the program.

“Paragon Pools’ commitment to drowning prevention and water safety education with the Float Like a Duck program is inspiring,” said PHTA Vice President of Partnerships and Development Rowdy Gaines. “Through programs like this, Step Into Swim can get closer to achieving its mission of creating one million more swimmers!”

The Y’s Safety Around Water Program teaches children of all ages and from all backgrounds that water should be fun, not feared. It is designed to reach children at-risk of drowning and teach them basic water safety skills. The 8-session course takes children through a series of swimming and safety classes to prepare them for fun and safe water activity. The program is provided at no-cost to the participants.

Families interested in learning more about the YMCA of Southern Nevada- Safety Around Water program may contact the YMCA at (702) 877-9622.

Step Into Swim, an initiative of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA), has recently distributed \$99,590 in grant funds to 22 facilities across the country, reaching 6,297 children.



FMI go to <http://www.paragonpoolslv.com/float-like-a-duck>  
Follow Duckie at <http://www.facebook.com/Floatlikeaduck>



*Educating the public on the importance of safety while celebrating the joys of water sports.*

### **About Float Like A Duck™**

Founded in 2003, Float Like A Duck™ is an award-winning public service water safety initiative created by Paragon Pools of Las Vegas with a mission of “Educating the public on the importance of safety while celebrating the joys of water sports.” The initiative focuses on ENFORCING the ABC&D’s of water safety, with a BIG emphasis on A-adult supervision. This program has been recognized by the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition, Nevada Governor’s Points of Light Awards, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, and the National Water Safety Congress. Paragon Pools is a partner with Pool Safely, National Water Safety Month and the National Drowning Prevention Alliance and is a member of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA). FMI go to <https://www.paragonpoolslv.com/float-like-a-duck>

### **About the YMCA of Southern Nevada**

Established locally in 1944, the YMCA of Southern Nevada is a 501c3 nonprofit and is one of the longest-serving and most-respected organizations of its kind in Las Vegas. The Y is one of the nation’s leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 22 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. <https://www.lasvegasyymca.org/> .

---30---

**Photo:** Joseph Vassallo of Paragon Pools/Float Like A Duck and Duckie the Mascot present the YMCA of Southern Nevada representatives Emily Sowers (left) and Brianna Barber with a \$5,000 grant from PHTA-Step Into Swim to support the Y’s Safety Around Water program.



FMI go to <http://www.paragonpoolslv.com/float-like-a-duck>  
Follow Duckie at <http://www.facebook.com/Floatlikeaduck>