



BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Boys & Girls Club Supporter:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston (BGCGH) is in a growth and expansion mode, as reflected in the first two quarters of 2023.

More than 50,000 youth are projected to come through our doors this year, which tracks with our numbers for the first half of the year. This means we have 50,000 opportunities to impact lives and set the course for success in school and in life.

To address growth, we are adding Clubs. Construction continues on our fifth Fort Bend County Club in Rosenberg, a state-of-the-art facility. In February, we held the grand opening of our Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School Club in Southeast Houston. We recently celebrated the opening of the Barbara Bush Children's Library at our Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club, which supports our pillar of academic readiness.

We continue to provide robust, innovative programming to address the needs of our Club members, including mitigation of pandemic and summer learning loss through targeted STEAM, reading, and enrichment activities.

In Q1 and Q2, we expanded our board of directors with the election of seven new members, representing the public and private sectors, including health care, communications, education, energy, oil & gas, and banking. These five women and two men reflect the community we live in and share a commitment to ensuring that all members have the tools they need to be life and workforce ready.

February's Youth of the Year Dinner celebrated the most outstanding of our Club members, with Ky'Saan Piatti of the Houston Texans Teen Club being named 2023 Youth of the Year. In April, we honored the Houston Texans Foundation, with chairs Hannah and Cal McNair, at our Great Futures Dinner, raising nearly \$1 million. And again this year, we hosted the national Juneteenth webinar at the historic Reedy Chapel in Galveston, Texas.

Finally, at the yearly Boys & Girls Clubs of America national conference in Orlando, BGCGH was recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America with three distinguished awards: The Workforce Readiness Award, Youth Megaphone Award, and The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award.

The first half of 2023 has been busy and fruitful. We thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Kevin R. Hattery
President & CEO



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National Mentoring Month



In January we celebrated National Mentoring Month.

No matter their background, every young person can benefit from having a positive adult mentor in their life! In our mentoring program at BGCGH, young people find positive adult mentors in staff and volunteers who notice their strengths, listen to their concerns, and open up doors of possibility. By connecting youth to a program that deepens their interests to spark their curiosity in a future career field, inspiring mentors help kids and teens explore their full potential. Thank you to all of our mentors here at BGCGH!

Cristo Rey Jesuit Club Grand Opening

On Wednesday, February 8th, we celebrated the official grand opening of our Cristo Rey Jesuit Club in Southeast Houston, where more than 125 people gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The program began with Cristo Rey Jesuit Club Director Taylor Franklin welcoming guests and introducing sophomore student Mikayla, who gave the invocation and prayer. She noted that she participates in sports and is happy to have a safe space after school for enrichment and academic support thanks to Boys & Girls Clubs now operating within Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston.

Cristo Rey Jesuit Principal, Drew Hudson, a Boys & Girls Clubs alumnus, was enthusiastic about the new venture saying, “the partnership with Boys & Girls Club allows Cristo Rey Jesuit to further develop the whole student, by ensuring they have a safe and affirming place to engage with each other, strengthen friendships, and find academic support as men and women for others well after the last school bell has rung. This transformative opportunity expands our resources and further connects us to the greater Houston community. Our organizations have aligned to provide a dynamic experience that sets the foundation for a great future.”

We cannot wait to see all the amazing things our Cristo Rey Club members accomplish this year!



Awards and Accolades



This year, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston was presented these prestigious awards:

- BGCA Honor Award for Program Quality in Workforce Readiness
- BGCA Honor Award for Program Quality in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- BCGA Youth Megaphone Award for utilization & amplification of youth voice in local, state, and federal advocacy campaigns.
- Houston Business Journal Diversity in Business Award

We are very proud of our mission to build great futures for youth.



2023 Julius Young Youth of the Year

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston (BGCGH) is proud to announce that Ky'Saan Piatti, a member of the Houston Texans Teen Club, was named BGCGH's 2023 Julius Young Youth of the Year during the annual Youth of the Year dinner held February 17 at the Junior League of Houston. Sheriff Ed Gonzalez of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, served as keynote speaker, while emcee duties were handled by Deepi Sidhu, Texans Insider and Lead Writer with the Houston Texans.



The Youth of the Year program honors and celebrates inspiring teens and their incredible journeys and is based on outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. The program and event were generously underwritten by Chevron.

Ky'Saan will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Julius Young Youth of the Year Scholarship Fund and a \$5,000 college scholarship from Chevron which he plans to use at Wichita State University upon graduation.



When asked about his philosophy, Ky'Saan replied, "Be kind to others, never judge a book by its cover, and the most important of them all, always be true to yourself."

More than 200 attendees, including BGCGH board members, staff and supporters, also got to hear from BGCGH's two other top Youth of the Year candidates: Jadyne Perez from the Houston Texans Teen Club and a sophomore at Heights High School, and Jonathan Salazar from the Richmond-Rosenberg Boys & Girls Club and a junior at B.F. Terry High School. Each gave inspiring speeches about their personal journeys with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and received scholarships as well.



In order to choose one youth to represent BGCGH at the state competition, judges were recruited to hear from all the Youth of the Year candidates and had the tough job of narrowing it down to only one. A special thank you to the following individuals for volunteering their time as judges: San Burnett, Woodside Energy; Telisa Toliver, Chevron; Hannah McNair, Houston Texans; and BGCGH Board of Directors: Jerome Butler, Comcast; Terri King, ConocoPhillips; Steve Metzger, Carriage Services; and Pranika Sinha, Greystone.

MLK Essay Contest with DistributionNOW



On January 9th, 2023, DistributionNOW (DNO) volunteers arrived at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston (BGCGH) and offered their assistance to BGCGH leaders. The presentation began with DNO representatives briefly speaking about their organization and discussing the contest. The essay prompt asked the youth to reflect on the profound significance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Members of the DNO team had the honor of reading the winning essays, capturing the essence of the students' thoughtful and inspiring words. The three BGCGH winners, Aaliyah P., 5th-grade member from Morefield Boys & Girls Club; Carson S., 6th-grade member from Havard Boys & Girls Club; and Hilario F., 12th-grade member from Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club were also surprised with amazing gifts as a recognition of their outstanding achievement in the essay competition.

During the prize presentation, a pizza party was announced, creating a joyous atmosphere where all participants could celebrate and enjoy delicious food. DNO expressed gratitude to all the students who participated in the competition. Furthermore, we express our gratitude to DNO for their unwavering support of BGCGH.





2023 Great Futures Dinner

Thank you to everyone who attended our 35th Annual Great Futures Dinner! It was a wonderful night and we appreciate everyone who joined us to help us celebrate! We hope you enjoyed an incredible evening filled with youth-inspired moments, from our Jr. Emcee and 2023 Youth of the Year speech to their creative art pieces, cheerleading, and drumline performances.

We are so grateful to our partners who sponsored the event, purchased auction items, and made donations. Through your generosity, we raised nearly \$950,000 for the critical programs we provide to more than 50,000 youth and teens annually! Thank you also to our 2023 Great Futures Dinner Champions for Youth: Houston Texans Foundation and honorary chairs Hannah and Cal McNair! We appreciate the leadership and generous support this organization has provided BCGH over the years.

Funding from the Great Futures Dinner directly benefits the more than 50,000 youth we serve at our 24 Club locations. It allows us to offer essential programming after school and during the summer, distribute healthy meals daily, and mentor relationships with youth. Again, we could not do all this critical work without our partners and funders like you. Thank you again for supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston!

A special thank you to our top sponsors:

Diamond Sponsors: Kroger, Laura and Will Leven.

Platinum Sponsors: Paige and Brant Baird, Coats Rose, Joey and Bill Goetz, Houston Texans, Strake Foundation/ Hightower Texas/ Carla and Steve Strake, Sysco.

Gold Sponsors: Anonymous, Tiffanie and Chris Reina



Reading Ignites at BCGH

The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 17 marked a momentous occasion as BCGH joyfully celebrated the grand opening of the Barbara Bush Children's Library at Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club. The Curiosity Cruiser-themed library, promises to foster a deep appreciation for literacy among our members. A special thank you to all those who played a part in bringing this remarkable project together, as it will enrich the lives of our Club members and nurture their love for reading.

In addition, we are very proud to announce that the youth who participated in the accelerated program at our Spring Branch Club have closed the reading gap! The Spring Branch Club began the year at a -0.67 gap in reading level. In the first quarter, the youth were able to close that gap, putting them on grade level with national peers. Reading proficiency is essential because it correlates with future success and high school graduation.





Space City Summer Programming



BGCGH's Space City Summer has officially blasted off, offering a dynamic and engaging experience for young minds during the summer months. With the aim of preventing summer learning loss, our Clubs provide a safe and enjoyable environment where youth can explore, learn, and uncover new interests. Summer membership is just \$25, giving youth access to all-day programming, complete with meals, snacks, sports activities, mentoring, and much more.



ExxonMobil

Throughout the summer, our Clubs will serve thousands of youth, delivering essential programs that pave the way for their future success. This year, we set a fundraising target of \$25,000 specifically for summer programming. Thanks to our valued partner, ExxonMobil, who generously matched every donation, the impact of individual gifts was doubled. This support contributes to the growth and enrichment of the youth we serve this summer.

Save The Date - 2023 Sporting Clays Tournament

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Greater Houston Sports Club



9:00 A.M. Breakfast & Registration

10:00 A.M. Shoot Begins

12:30 P.M. Lunch, Awards and Silent Auction

Contact Dom Garcia for more information: dgarcia@bgcgh.org

Ways to Invest

- Make a donation online at www.bgcgh.org/donate
- Make a donation by mail to **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston P.O. Box 676465 Dallas, TX 75267-6465**
- Sponsor one of BGCGH's events such as the **Great Futures Dinner** or the annual **Sporting Clays Tournament**.
- Become a **Club Blue** recurring monthly donor.
- Become a member of the **Great Futures Society** with an unrestricted annual gift of \$10,000 or more.
- Join the **1952 Legacy Society** and show support in perpetuity by including BGCGH in your will or estate plans.

For more information, contact Mari Bosker at: MBosker@bgcgh.org

Thank you for your support!