

OCTOBER 2020



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY



**GREAT
FUTURES
START **HERE.****

Fall Impact
Report and
Update





550+

kids in grades K-8
served weekly

3,240

logins to online virtual classes
each week at our
school age branches

180

trained youth development
professionals willing to come
to work in the midst of a
global pandemic

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Your Support
Changes Lives

\$150,000

funding gap to
stay open each month

49

Fountain Valley and
Huntington Beach area
schools served in
5 different districts

180+

kids under age 5
served weekly

A Desperate Parent Asks for Help

Will You Answer?

In an application for the Club's scholarship program, a mom named Susana wrote a heartfelt plea:

"As a single mother, I don't like asking for help unless I really need it. Right now, the budget is very tough. It's become a choice between daycare or rent. I have no one to watch my son. I don't know what I would do without the Boys & Girls Club. Please help."

With help from supporters like you, the Club can provide the a scholarship program so that families like Susana's can access the childcare they so desperately need. The Club's sliding scale scholarship program makes sure families pay only what they can afford.

Will you make a gift to sponsor a child at the Boys & Girls Club today?

Your helping hand in a family's moment of desperate need makes a big difference. You'll help a parent like Susana be able to pay the rent. You'll help her keep working, moving our community toward recovery. Best of all, you'll give a child the Club's safe, caring environment, where they will get the all the help they need to succeed in this challenging year.

How to Help Families Like Susana's

- ✓ Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift
- ✓ Give online at bgchv.com/donate
- ✓ Call 714-899-5900 ext. 206 to make a gift



2021 Events - Save the Date!



SURF CITY *Splash* March 6, 2021

The Boys & Girls Club is proud to once again partner with Surf City Rotary as the premier charity beneficiary of Surf City Splash! This fun event not only supports the Boys & Girls Club, but also other great charity work happening here in our community and around the world. You don't want to miss it!



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction

October 16, 2021

We've just wrapped up our amazing 2020 event and are already starting to plan for next year. Mark your calendar and save the date for **October 16, 2021**. We don't know yet whether this event will be **in-person, online, or hybrid**, but we'll be ready to do **Whatever It Takes** to help the kids who need us most. Hope we can count on you to be part of it!

Club's Annual Benefit Raises \$500,000

Your Support Made it Possible!

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley hosted its first ever VIRTUAL "Great Futures Start Here" Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction. The community rallied together with 50+ watch parties and raised \$500,000 to benefit the kids at the Boys & Girls Club! Though supporters couldn't all gather together, the Club decided to bring the party to supporters' homes instead, with staff delivering more than 400 three course meals from the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa to small watch parties all around Orange County.

less revenue. At the same time, those same COVID-19 guidelines mean increased expenses. Through the summer, a \$1.1 million grant from the federal government's CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program helped the organization survive. But, now, those funds have been spent, doing the **important work of keeping kids safe and learning**. The community's generous support of the Club's Great Futures Start Here Annual Benefit will help get us to the end of the year and our whole team couldn't be more grateful. **To all of our supporters, I want to say thank you for helping us be**

there for the kids and families who need the Club during this very challenging year. You're making a difference."

As the Club looks forward to 2021, there are new challenges ahead. The organization faces the same reduced capacity and increased expenses to continue to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 at the Club. Minimum wage will increase on January 1st and major repairs like roof and HVAC systems are needed. It will be challenging, even for an organization like the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley which is committed to running lean and frugal operations. That's why your support is so important.

CEO Tanya Hoxsie says, "We are so grateful to be part of a community that puts kids at the top of their priority list. The

\$500,000 raised at the virtual event feels like a miracle, positioning us well for the hard work ahead in 2021. I hope we can count on each member of our Boys & Girls Club family to continue to put the kids first. Their great futures start right here – with you."



CHAMPION OF YOUTH DAVID SUN

Club CEO Tanya Hoxsie says, "**Since that day in March when the schools first closed, our Club has been fighting hard to stay open for the kids and families that need us most.** Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley is proud to be the only Boys & Girls Club between Long Beach and the Mexican border that stayed open throughout the entire pandemic. Today, all seven of our sites are open and we have 180+ caring youth development professionals helping children learn and changing children's lives for the better every day. **We're doing everything we can to provide the safe, reliable care that parents in this community are counting on. But it's hard.**

"To follow COVID-19 guidelines, we've reduced our capacity dramatically, and that means significantly

"I hope we can continue to count on each member of our Club family to continue to put the kids first. **Their great futures start right here – with you.**"

READY TO HELP?

- ✓ Use the enclosed envelope to make your gift
- ✓ Visit bgchv.com/donate
- ✓ Call 714-899-5900, ext. 206



400+ MEALS DELIVERED



CLUBHOUSE ENTERTAINERS



WATCH PARTY

Clubs Transform Into Online Learning Centers

Your Support Helps Children Thrive in This Difficult Year

To help children with online education, the Boys & Girls Club's school age youth centers have been transformed into learning centers. While each school age Club has always had an education center and technology lab, now every room looks like a technology lab and **every room has become an education center, filled with online learning each day.** In their small, socially distanced cohorts, children fill up the Club's spaces with their Chromebooks and school books, while the Club's staff help kids get connected and stay on top of their school work.

Ryan Brenes, Unit Director of the Haynes Family Huntington Beach Branch, shared what online learning during this unusual school year has been like at his Club.

“At the start of the school year, there were a lot of challenges. Even getting the kids’ log on information for their classes was a challenge. A lot of times, they’d arrive with just a Chromebook and not be able to tell us their online class schedule, who their teachers were, or much of anything. On top of that, teachers were still learning to use the online learning platforms and parents were feeling overwhelmed and confused. It didn’t take long for things to get sorted out, though. **I’ve spoken to parents who say they don’t know how to log their kids on to classes, and I say, ‘That’s OK. We do.’ It’s a big relief for parents** to be able to drop their kids off and know that school is covered. They can focus on their workday. We hear things like, ‘You guys do all this not just for my kid, but for ALL of them? Wow.’

“I’m amazed all the time at how great our staff are at memorizing schedules and helping kids stay engaged in their online learning. At my branch, we serve kids from more than 15 schools from three Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach area school districts, plus some kids who live out of the area but who come to our club because their parents work in Huntington Beach. Online learning looks different for each school and grade. Some are on block schedules, some are on A/B days, some are every day. When we can, we try to pair kids up with other kids in the same class. That way, they can help

each other with their work, they can remind each other about when it’s time to login to class, and they motivate each other to finish homework so that they can play together once the school day is done. It’s been fun to see new friendships form between kids who were in the same school, same grade, or even the same class before, and they just didn’t know each other that well. Now, they’re getting to be buddies. That **social interaction is really important, especially right now – even if it has to be socially distanced.**



“With online learning, one of the hardest parts is that the kids who need the most help are the ones being asked to jump from Zoom to Zoom in the middle of classes. They might have to leave math to go a Zoom with their counselor, or leave reading to go do speech therapy. Our staff try so hard to help the kids be on top of their schedules and get to the Zoom that they need to be on. A parent will call the office to remind us about a special Zoom. I’ll talk to the staff running that child’s cohort and say, ‘Jack’s mom called, he’s got speech...’ and before I can finish, the staff will say, ‘Speech therapy at 11, got it covered.’

“In more than 10 years at the Club, I can honestly say I’ve never heard so many parents be so vocally grateful about us being open and about the work that we do at the Club. They had to do all the hard work that goes with online education last year and in the beginning of the fall. They were overwhelmed. But now, they’ve realized the Club is here to do all that. Our staff does a lot more than just get kids logged on for classes. They work with the kids to make sure that all of their work gets uploaded and submitted to teachers. When kids can’t ask teachers questions because they’re not in person, our staff are there to help. When a kid forgets their workbook, our staff knows who else has the same workbook and makes copies.

“As we progress in the school year, some kids are starting to be able to go back to their school’s version of hybrid learning, with some time at the Club and some time at school. You’ve never seen 7th graders so excited to go back to school! But, **some kids will continue to be with us for full days all year.** We always say that we do ‘Whatever It Takes’ at the Club. And that’s certainly true this year. **We’ll be here for whatever families need for the entire school year,** whether that’s full days, after school,

“...we’re building relationships with families. Strong relationships between their parents and their caregivers – that’s 100% positive for the kids.”

half-day hybrid, A/B in-person/online hybrid schedules. You name it, we’re here for it.

“As we all work together to navigate this new world of online learning and hybrid in-person and online learning, parents have had a reason to be more communicative with our staff. We talk with parents about schedules, when schools are going back, how the kids’ school day went, what they might be struggling with, or doing well at. With each of those conversations, **we’re building relationships with families. Strong relationships between their parents and their caregivers – that’s 100% positive for the kids.”**





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY



**Whatever
It Takes to
Build Great
Futures.**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley
16582 Brookhurst Street FV, CA 92708
714-531-2582 · bgchv.com

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A Look Inside Our Preschools

Caring for Our Youngest Members During the Pandemic

Site Director Susan Bixler shares what running our Learning Center Preschool has been like during the pandemic. She and the staff at the preschool are finding silver linings and helping children thrive in these challenging times.

“When everything started back in March, it was a really hard time. Tension and worries were high and we had to make a lot of changes very quickly. We added dividers to our classrooms to keep small groups of children in separate spaces. A nurse, Nina Nagel, volunteered and taught our staff health screening protocols and precautions to keep our kids safe. That was a huge help. We had to guide 18-month to 3-year-olds in social distancing! Staff had to get creative and become very mindful of keeping that distance. It was



all a challenge. But, once we settled into our new routines and some time had passed, **staff and parents realized that we’re doing everything we can to prevent COVID and it’s working.** Parents showed a tremendous amount of trust in us and our staff got back to enjoying providing

learning opportunities and curriculum for the kids.

In fact, I’ve seen so many great learning moments as staff take advantage of this time with small group classrooms. The kids especially love science experiments, which are easier to do in a hands on way with a small class of 12. This month, kids have been learning about apples - their anatomy, tasting them, and even watching for chemical reactions when we made a mini-volcano with baking soda and vinegar inside a cored apple. I love seeing the children’s excitement and I love seeing our staff enjoying their time with the children!

While so many things in kids and families lives are difficult right now, **we’re really proud to be a place that they can always count on.** We have a child named Samuel in our scholarship program this year. His mom was diagnosed with cancer back in March. Samuel’s mom had initially unenrolled him because of concerns about COVID and her getting laid off. With COVID restrictions in place at medical facilities, her son couldn’t go with her to doctor’s appointments and Samuel’s father works full time. She needed childcare and our preschool was the answer. His mom has told me how much **she appreciates the consistency that coming to school to learn and interact with other children is giving Samuel during this difficult time.** That’s what we’re here for – to help families. Being there for each other goes both ways. We get calls from parents, asking how they can help and what they can do. We’re so grateful to have that support from families. **We’re all in this together and we’ll get through it by counting on each other.”**