



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY



engage  
**inspire**  
empower

**BGCHV.com**

**spring 2023**

# Note from the CEO

## A Message of Hope this Spring



Spring is a time of hope and renewal. From kids working together in our gardening program to children preparing for dance recitals, sports playoffs, or the end of the school year, we see growth all around our Clubs.

In the news, however, we read about the mental health challenges faced by today's young people. Anxiety and depression have been steadily rising among children. Kids feel greater loneliness and feel sad more often than previous generations.

It's our job as a youth development organization to take that seriously. We know that what's most important right now for kids is that they feel connected, safe, and loved. And, they need to build their social skills like learning to make friends, managing their feelings, and building

self-confidence. That's why I feel so hopeful - because at the Boys & Girls Club we provide daily opportunities to inspire, engage, and empower our children.

When kids walk through our doors, they know they've found a place to belong. 100% of our kids say they feel as safe or safer at our Clubs than anywhere else in their lives. They also know their needs will be met, whether it's help with homework or a good meal. They're building friendships and connecting with caring adults. And, while kids are learning by doing in our hands-on activities, they are having FUN, which every child needs in their life. I know it's making a difference. One third grader says, "Everyone is so kind here. They help us solve problems calmly. I really like that the Club is a very cheerful and fun place to be!" Thank YOU for partnering with us in providing safe spaces for children to learn, grow and explore.

## Thank You Surf City Rotary!

We are so thankful to Surf City Rotary of Huntington Beach for choosing Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley as the premier charity for their 2023 Splash fundraiser! **Thanks to the generosity of Splash's supporters, the Club received a \$50,000 contribution from Rotary.** This gift

to the operating fund helps the Club keep its programs affordable for all families, especially those who need us most. We extend special thank you to event chairs Tanya Hoxsie and



Karen Wolff who give so much of their time to both Rotary and the Boys & Girls Club. At the event, Club members had the opportunity to share what they've learned at the Boys & Girls Club. Members of ClubHouse Academy performed a musical number and children who participate in our STEM and

Robotics programs taught Splash guests to do basic coding with Ozobots. **Thank you, Rotary, for your contribution and the opportunity to showcase our talented Club members!**



# Club Names Youth of the Year

## Congratulations, Brooklynn!

The Boys & Girls Club honored Brooklynn P. as the Youth of the Year for 2022 at a recent ceremony dedicated to outstanding youth in Orange County Boys & Girls Clubs. Brooklynn is 13 years old and has been a member of the Haynes Family Huntington Beach Branch since she was in kindergarten. Brooklynn is always willing to help and find new ways to get involved. She is part of our Robotics Club, loves our Triple Play Program, and is Vice President of our Torch Club, which is a program focused on community service and leadership. Unit Director Ryan Gassis shares,



“She is always the first person to present the next big idea for an event or activity that Torch Club can host and she loves to volunteer around the Club and help out with our carnivals. **She’s**

**got a big heart and we love having Brooklynn at our Club.”** The feeling is mutual – Brooklynn says she plans to work at the Club once she is old enough because she cannot imagine not going to the Boys & Girls Club every day!

# Youth Development Professionals of the Year

## Club Honors Outstanding Staff Members



### Anamilette Sanchez

*Kingston Branch*

Ana has been with the organization for five years. She started at the Huntington Beach Branch and relocated to the Kingston Branch in 2020.

She's led many field trips and currently runs our Kindergarten program. **She is a fantastic mentor to the members** and helps shape our Kindergartners into successful 1st graders for the following year!



### Esa Ly

*Haynes Huntington Beach Branch*

Esa started working with the Club about a year and a half ago. Esa currently works in our Education Center and runs programs like Power

Hour, Ozobots, and Imagine Science. **Esa does an excellent job not only helping with homework but also getting the kids excited for fun, hands-on STEM activities.** Esa is always excited to help out around the Club!

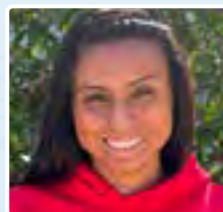


### Giselle Robles

*Oak View Branch*

Giselle started as a Club kid when the Oak View Branch opened in 2012. She was in seventh grade when she began to participate and

continued until her senior year in high school. **Giselle is an outstanding staff member, consistently demonstrating initiative and great leadership.** Giselle has run programs such as Imagine Science and National Fine Arts. She has a passion for art and enjoys it when she can incorporate it into her daily activities. Giselle is currently our Program Coordinator and continues to do excellent work!



### Ivette Samperio

*Pacific Life Foundation Branch*

Ivette has been part of the PLF team since 2016. Ivette's strong work ethic helps make our morning program a success. Ivette helps

coordinate school departure schedules and ensures our Club members arrive on time. **She is thoughtful and goes the distance to create a positive learning environment for our members.** Ivette pays attention to the small details that make a difference in Club members' lives and uses that knowledge about their interests to plan activities that kids get excited about.

# STEM Programs Get a Boost from Bridgestone, Lenovo and BGCA

## eSports Programs Are Growing

BRIDGESTONE

Lenovo



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

A gift of 10 new gaming computers and an \$8,000 grant from Lenovo will push our eSports program to the next level! **The Club is creating a new eSports space within the teen room at our Haynes Family Huntington Beach Branch** for kids to enjoy this new equipment and fun new programming.

In our eSports program, youth will compete in online gaming like Super Smash Bros, Madden NFL, Minecraft, League of Legends and more. While many adults may not be too familiar with the online gaming world, eSports are constantly growing in popularity and can even earn dedicated gamers scholarships at great colleges like UC



Irvine, UC San Diego, and USC. **The Club is excited for this great opportunity to engage teens and pre-teens in activities that they love, while teaching about online safety, good sportsmanship, and positive use of their recreational time.**

The Club will use Boys & Girls Clubs of America's brand new eSports Playbook, a program guide that will be rolled out nationwide later in 2023. We are proud to be one of the first Boys & Girls Clubs to get to test out the new Playbook, have our staff participate

in special trainings, and provide feedback to Boys & Girls Clubs of America to help make the program the best it can be for its national rollout.

## Bridgestone Invests in Club STEM Programs

The Club held a STEM showcase to share the amazing work that the Club's youth have been doing in science, technology, engineering and math. Youth demonstrated their expertise in 3D printing, writing code, and navigating bots using their coding skills.



During the showcase, the Club and our partner Bridgestone Retail Operations shared a big surprise with the children, families, and community members gathered at the showcase. **Bridgestone announced that they would be investing \$100,000 in Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley's STEM programs this year!**

This incredible donation has allowed the Club to upgrade and expand the equipment, curriculum, and materials needed to make its Science, Technology, Engineering & Math programs even

better. **With Bridgestone's support, everyone from preschoolers through teens will have the opportunity to benefit from the latest in STEM education.** The Club has purchased SmartBoards for preschool classrooms, robots and robotics curriculum materials, Chromebooks, tablets, software, and much more. This donation is helping the Club develop the infrastructure needed to provide top quality STEM programming at all of our locations.



Director of Operations Ryan Brenes says, "STEM is in all the things that we use in our everyday life in most professions. **We want kids to be excited and ready to have careers in STEM** because we know that is where future jobs are going to be and we want to set them up for success." **THANK YOU, BRIDGESTONE!**

# Alumni Spotlight: Amanda MacDonald

## Her Great Future Started at ClubHouse Academy

Our ClubHouse Academy offers much-loved performing arts and martial arts programs. Beyond building up children's skills in dance, acting, gymnastics, music, and karate classes, ClubHouse Academy is also known for building up a sense of community and belonging among youth, staff members, alumni, and parent volunteers. Many youth come back year after year and enroll in classes across disciplines because they love the feeling of belonging and the second home that they find at ClubHouse Academy. Many of our alumni go on to work as professional performers and many more simply develop a lifelong love for the arts.



I've taken as well as the wonderful instruction of every teacher I've had has led me to where I am today. At the time, coming to classes at ClubHouse Academy just seemed like something to look forward to after school. But looking back now as an adult, I learned so many skills there about responsibility, perseverance, time



ClubHouse Academy alumna Amanda MacDonald has a career she loves as a professional performing artist at Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm. She shares, "It's officially been over a decade since I first attended Clubhouse Academy. During my time there, I took every type of dance class you can think of. I was part of countless musical theater productions and recitals. I was announced as the 2016 youth of the year. And, I built my way up in the gymnastics program to eventually getting a job as an assistant gymnastics coach when I was a junior in high school. Even now as an adult, I come back to take lessons with ClubHouse Academy's Dance Director Allison Horner.

**There's a reason why I've kept coming back to ClubHouse Academy all these years as well as deciding to make performance art my choice of career: it's the great relationships I've built here at the Boys & Girls Club.** All the friends I've made over the years in every single class

management, relationship building, respect, discipline, problem solving, and so many others on top of my fabulous dance training. Although I may be considered an alumni now, **ClubHouse Academy**

**will always be my home** and I know I will be welcomed back with open arms. I can never thank the team at ClubHouse Academy and everyone I've met there enough!"

Our **ClubHouse Academy gives children tremendous quality arts education** experiences and it goes much further beyond that, too. It **builds up children's life skills, their self-esteem, and gives them a community** and place they can always call home. When we help children build the skills and confidence that lay the foundation for success, every child at the Boys & Girls Club has the opportunity to build their own great future – just like Amanda!



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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## Your Support Helps Working Parents Please Make Your Gift Today!

Every donation to the Boys & Girls Club makes a difference to a child and their whole family. A single mom at our Kingston Branch in Fountain Valley shares, "My child has come to this Club for childcare since kindergarten. He feels safe and happy here and has a lot of friends.

**Because of the Club, I am able to work at my current job to be able to provide for my kids. With the Club's assistance for sliding scale, it really helps me have extra money to be able to afford more groceries for my kids or towards bills."**

With your help, the Boys & Girls Club is always able to lend parents a helping hand when they need it most.

We not only enrich children's lives during their time at the Club, we also help families make sure that their children's needs are met at home, too, by enabling moms and dads to work and provide for their children. **Please make your gift today using the enclosed envelope or online at [bgchv.com/donate](http://bgchv.com/donate).**



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## Join Us for a Gift Giving Party

Our Great Futures Start Here Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction will be held on October 14, 2023. Throughout the year, the Club will host a series of Gift Giving Parties to help fill our online auction with amazing items and to give our supporters some fun opportunities to mix and mingle while making a difference to the kids at the Club. There are three great opportunities for you to join us for a Gift Giving Party!

### June 8, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency

*Hosted by Nancy Monte-Frye & Dennis Taylor, Wink & Sandi Williams, Jeff & Jo Ann Hyder, the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa.*

Enjoy light refreshments, beer & wine, valet parking and ocean views from the Cove at the Hyatt.

Registration: \$10 plus auction item valued at \$50+

### July 13, 2023 at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club

*Hosted by Pam & Calvin Free, Lyn & Rich Semeta, and Rob & Jennifer Handy*

Enjoy catering by the White House Restaurant and a fun evening with friends for a great cause.

Registration: \$25 plus auction item valued at \$50+

### September 14, 2023 at Four Sons Brewing

*Hosted by John & Karla Etheridge, Steve & Nina Nagel and Four Sons Brewing*

Enjoy light refreshments and Four Sons' outstanding brews in the Barrell Room.

Registration: \$10 plus auction item valued at \$50+

### Not sure what to bring for your donation? Here are a few great ideas:

Gift cards to your favorite restaurants and shops, good bottles of wine or liquor, tickets to sports, concerts, or the theater, home goods and power tools, getaways to your vacation home or time share



**Scan to Register**