

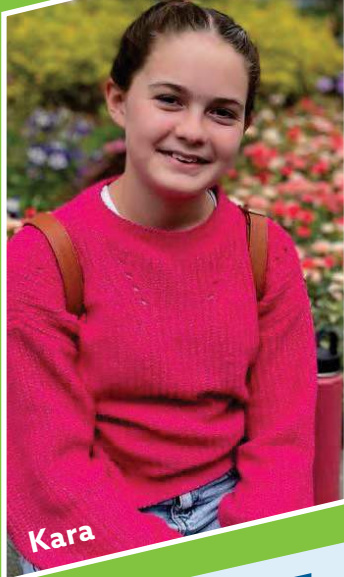


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY





Bridget



Kara



Bridget is a sixth grader and dedicated ClubHouse Academy member. She is what Director of Theatre and Dance Allison Horner calls **“that ‘once in a lifetime’ student every performing arts instructor dreams of mentoring.”**

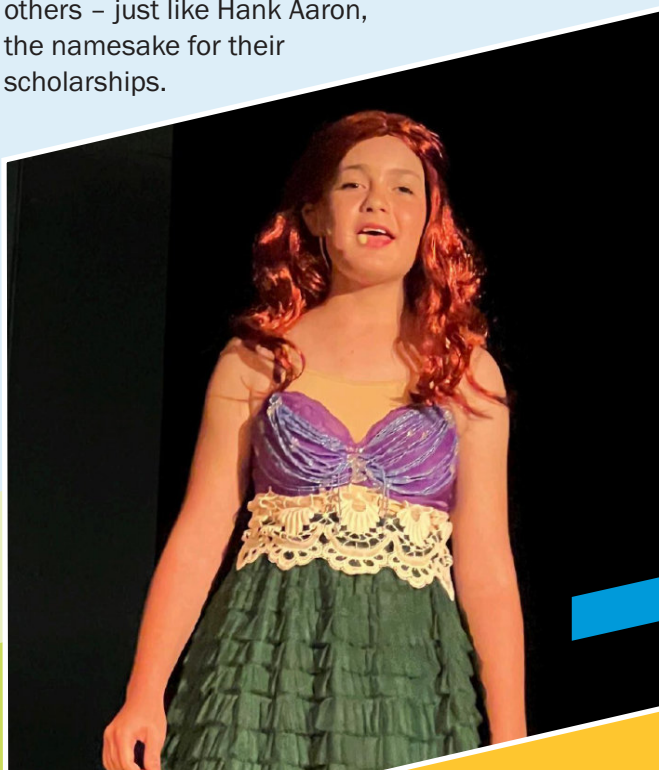
Her remarkable focus and professional approach to every class and rehearsal have earned her a spot as one of the program’s top dancers. This year, Bridget achieved the significant milestone of dancing en pointe and shined in the spring production of *The Little Mermaid*. She's also become a mentor to younger students, volunteering at summer dance camps and inspiring the next generation.

Kara is a seventh grader who has been with ClubHouse Academy since preschool. Ms. Horner describes Kara **“a ray of sunshine as a dancer and human being,”** and says Kara is a true “triple threat” with extraordinary talent in dance, singing, and acting. Kara has become an invaluable Teacher’s Assistant in preschool dance classes and regularly helps backstage with costumes, cleanup, and supporting younger performers. Unit Director Sem Ibrahim notes that “Kara stands out because she combines real artistic ability with genuine kindness and leadership.”

These scholarships will help both girls continue developing their talents while inspiring others – just like Hank Aaron, the namesake for their scholarships.

## Two ClubHouse Academy Stars Earn National Scholarships

Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley is celebrating two exceptional young performers who have earned prestigious **Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Scholarships**. **Bridget Sison** and **Kara Frey**, both dedicated dancers at ClubHouse Academy, are among just 44 Boys & Girls Club members nationwide to receive this honor - a nod to baseball legend Hank Aaron’s iconic jersey number.



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## Food for Thought - Club Members Discover the Science of Eating

This fall, Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley introduced an **exciting new curriculum through our Imagine Science program** that had Club members looking at their meals in a whole new way. “Food for Thought” explored

the fascinating science behind what we eat.

Each week, participants were eager to discover where food comes from, how it’s produced, and why mindful eating matters. Through **hands-on games and activities, including eating healthy snacks, members learned about the environmental impact of food waste, developed healthier nutrition habits,** and

explored how their food choices affect the world around them.

Much like our popular Healthy Habits program, Food for Thought empowered kids to become informed consumers by teaching them to read food labels and make healthier choices for themselves. The curriculum also helped kids understand the bigger picture of our food system and their role in it.

The lessons clearly resonated with our young scientists. Nine-year-old Jane said, “I didn't know eating was a science experiment. I do science every day!” And, eight-year-old Liam perfectly captured the program’s goal, sharing that **“Food for Thought helped me think smarter about food.”**

By connecting science to something as everyday as eating, we’re helping Club members develop critical thinking skills, make informed decisions about their health, and understand their impact on the environment, all while having fun at the Club.

## Fine Arts Club: Where Young Artists Discover & Create

At our Kingston Branch, Fine Arts Club members are exploring the colorful world of artistic expression. In our art room, kids are guided in working with oil pastels, watercolors, paints, ceramics, and more. As they get hands-on with these art mediums, kids are discovering new techniques and developing their own unique styles. Staff member Suzy says, **“Members love hands-on projects, they especially love sculpting with air dry clay and getting to use their imagination.”**

Once they’ve created their masterpieces, kids get to share it, too. Club members gain valuable opportunities to present their work and see their creations proudly displayed, building confidence alongside their artistic skills.



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# Halfway There! Chasing Dreams Campaign Reaches Major Milestone

We're thrilled to announce that the **ClubHouse Academy Chasing Dreams capital campaign has reached the halfway point toward our \$5.2 million goal!**

This transformative project will **expand our Kingston Branch in Fountain Valley with a dedicated wing for performing arts and martial arts**, finally creating a permanent home for our ClubHouse Academy programs. Currently housed in a nearby rental facility, our dance, karate, gymnastics, music, and theater programs will move into a permanent space designed specifically for young performers to thrive.

The new addition will feature two dance studios, a karate dojo/gymnastics space, a music room, and even a podcasting studio where kids can explore digital

media and storytelling. Just as importantly, performing arts classes will finally be in the same building as our performance stage, creating a true arts hub where creativity flows from rehearsal to the spotlight.



## Special Thank You to our Leadership Donors



RESA & DAVE  
EVANS THEIL



For a full list of donors check our website [ChasingDreamsOC.com](http://ChasingDreamsOC.com)

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But we're not stopping there. The campaign will also fund comprehensive updates to our existing Club spaces, ensuring every child who walks through our doors experiences a facility that reflects how much we believe in their potential.

For the young people in ClubHouse Academy, these programs are lifelines. As one student put it: "The Club saved my life." Another shared: "ClubHouse Academy is my second home." ClubHouse Academy is a community where kids discover their talents, build confidence, and dream bigger than they ever thought possible.

We're **deeply grateful** to the donors who have made this milestone possible. **Kingston Technology** and the **Robert Mayer Family Fund** each provided transformational \$500,000 lead gifts to launch the campaign. The **Haynes Family Fund** contributed \$300,000 specifically to update our academic center and STEM spaces, ensuring kids have cutting-edge resources for learning. And **Resa Evans and Dave Theil** gave \$250,000 to help turn this vision into reality.

With construction set to be completed by the end of the 2026-2027 school year, we're on track to give these incredible programs and the kids who depend on them the state of the art facilities and permanent home they deserve.



**Want to be part of making dreams come true?** Contact our Chief Advancement Officer Laura Portier-La Lumiere at (714) 309-4962 to learn how you can support the ClubHouse Academy Chasing Dreams campaign and help us reach the finish line or visit [chasingdreamsoc.com](https://chasingdreamsoc.com).



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## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley is proud to announce that we are now working together with the Orange County Community Foundation to administer the Jessica Lynn Herman Memorial Scholarship. This year, **two graduating seniors will each receive a one-time \$3,750 scholarship** to support their college education.

Jessica's legacy will be remembered in scholarship recipients who embody the qualities that made her truly special: a love for learning that bridges both the humanities and sciences, a generous spirit shown through mentoring and tutoring others, selflessness in serving

## Now Accepting Nominations for Club Alumni Hall of Fame

In 2027, Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley will celebrate its 60th Anniversary! In honor of this special milestone, we'll launch a brand new Alumni Hall of Fame in 2027. Throughout 2026, we'll be taking nominations for the inaugural class of the Alumni Hall of Fame.

**Were you a Club member or do you know some outstanding Club alumni?**

## Scholarship Available for Local High School Seniors

their community, and the self-motivation to set ambitious goals and work hard to achieve them.

The Jessica Lynn Herman Memorial Scholarship is open to graduating seniors from Huntington Beach Union High School District who plan to attend college full-time in fall 2026. Applicants must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and demonstrate Jessica's remarkable qualities through their academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, and community involvement.

We're honored to carry forward Jessica's memory by supporting students who share her passion for learning, commitment to others, and drive to make the world a better place.

**Applications are due February 28, 2026. If you know a teen who is a perfect fit for this scholarship, please encourage them to apply at [bgchv.com/scholarship](https://www.bgchv.com/scholarship)**



*Alumni*  
HALL OF FAME

**Nominate yourself or someone you know** who has gone on to be an exceptional member of the community, going above and beyond in their career or service to the community.



**Make your nomination at [bgchv.com/halloffame](https://www.bgchv.com/halloffame)**

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