

# Because YOU cared

Doing Whatever It takes to continue Building Great Futures



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF SOUTH ALABAMA



“I want nothing more than to give people, more specifically younger children, the opportunity to make change happen.”

*Kiara M.*

2021 Youth of the Year Winner

## Inside This Issue

- Corporate Spotlight on Starbucks
- College Closet
- ICU Mental Health
- Congratulations to the class of 2021!

**Take a look inside**  to find out more about our Youths of the Year.



## Corporate Spotlight Starbucks

This summer, our Ignite Summer Leadership Program had a fantastic partnership with Starbucks Coffee Company. Ignite Teens stayed busy making drinks, greeting customers, and learning Starbucks' history. One of the Ignite members received the Barista award for his outstanding customer service.

The Ignite Summer Leadership Program also partnered with Starbucks for "Coffee with a Cop" at local stores. Each gathering brought police, customers, teens and Starbucks partners together to help build community through conversation, understanding and empathy.

Partner with our friends at Starbucks by donating to Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama today! **Thank you** to our friends at Starbucks!



## New Club! Foley Branch

Although Joy Lymon has been working with the kids in Foley since 2020, the Foley Branch officially became a Boys & Girls Club in May of 2021. This month has been full of newness, busyness, and lots and lots of smiles! Foley has programs in STEM, Art, Technology, Education & More.

Our education program has explored the aspects of culture, virtually traveled to faraway countries, identified and learned of real-life superheroes, and recognized and established healthy eating and activity habits.

The Eastern Shore Chamber Orchestra has provided music lessons to our youth four days a week; our youth have learned the basics of music and of the violin. The Mobile Arts Council provides youth across the Gulf Coast with virtual art classes that include watercolor art, drawing/coloring art, and emoji art.

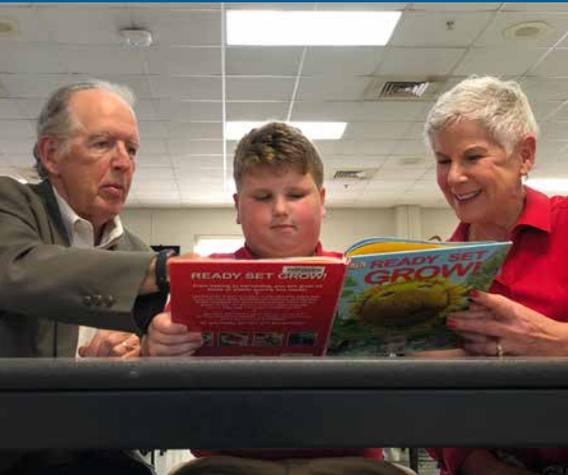
The 4-H Foundation of Alabama has provided weekly composting and gardening sessions. Employees of Hancock Whitney Bank have also visited our Foley Club to discuss financial literacy with our youth. Our members have participated in dance challenges and sign language classes.

Our mission is to enable our youth to reach their full potential, and we are so thankful for each part of our staff, volunteers, families, communities, and supporters that seek to serve out this same purpose.

We are looking forward to July and each new thing that will be learned, project that will be created, and youth that will be served!



# Thank you Tom & Sheryl Bates



Since 2013, Tom and Sheryl Bates have faithfully supported and encouraged the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama through Tom's service on the Board of Directors, Sheryl's volunteerism, and their generous financial support.

Retired as the President of Evonik, Tom states, "When a friend asked me to serve on the Board in 2013, it did not take me long to realize the incredible impact that Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama has on the community."

"And now, supporting Boys & Girls Clubs has become even more important to us," says Sheryl. "Our grandson, Christopher, became a Club member five years ago, and the experiences which the Club has provided for him are immeasurable. He receives tutoring and homework help, participates in recreational activities, enjoys art classes, is learning social skills and how to be a team player, and most importantly, he is being encouraged to reach his full potential."

If, like Tom and Sheryl Bates, you wish to support the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama, contact Brenda Carlisle at 251-432-1235, or email [bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org](mailto:bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org).

*"Sheryl and I welcome every opportunity to be a partner with this vibrant organization because we believe they are truly helping others and creating great futures for kids."*



## Program Partner ICU Mental Health

Mental Health is real, especially amongst youth, as we enter a post-COVID world.

Teen Talk is a program partnership with I.C.U. Mental Health and Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama with the purpose of providing a safe place for middle and high school-aged teens to engage in discussions specific to their emotional and behavioral needs.

Teens are taught healthy coping skills and provided enrichment that can lead to successful lives.

For more information on teen mental health, visit [www.icumentalhealth.com](http://www.icumentalhealth.com)!



## Employee Spotlight Pam Thompson

We would like to thank Pam Thompson for doing #WhateverItTakes for our youth! Pam is the Teen Coordinator at our Bernard Malkove at Cody Road Branch. She leads by example at her Club, which helps to improve our programs!

Pam expresses her passion for our kids every day that she walks into the Club. Over the last few months, she has been working diligently with our Club leaders - helping them to prepare for their upcoming Youth of the Year interviews! She inspires our teens to stay connected with the Club, and each other, by advising Keystone meetings, offering advice, and seeing the potential in every Club member! Help us in celebrating Pam Thompson for all she does for our youth!



# 2021 Youth of the Year Stories



*Kiara M.*

Bernard Malkove Branch

2021  
YOY Winner

Kiara Mosley believes that "...this generation wants nothing more than to improve the world that we know now, so that our children never have to worry about getting the resources they need to pursue happiness." Kiara has exemplified this belief in many ways at school and church, and at the Bernard Malkove Boys & Girls Club.

At the Club, she has served as Vice President and President of the Club's Keystone Chapter, participated in planning and facilitation of teen events, helped to plan safe, socially distanced parties for younger members and participated in volunteer events such as Art Walk, food drives and voter registration events. Kiara serves as BGCSA's UPS Road Code Ambassador, promoting safe teen driving habits including posting PSA's to social media during National Teen Driving Safety Week.

Kiara is a senior at Baker High School and is an AP Honors Scholar with a 4.69 GPA. After graduating in May, 2021 she intends to enter the University of Mobile to pursue a degree in Child Psychology. Kiara is an active member and speaker at Pilgrim Rest A.M.E. Zion Church, where she has been recognized for her many accomplishments.

Kiara credits her experiences at her Club with helping her to develop the social, academic and life skills that have helped transform her into an accomplished young woman, stating, "I know that I would not have many of my most important relationships or skills if I had never come to a Boys & Girls Club."

*"I want nothing more than to give people, more specifically younger children, the opportunity to make change happen." - Kiara Mosley*

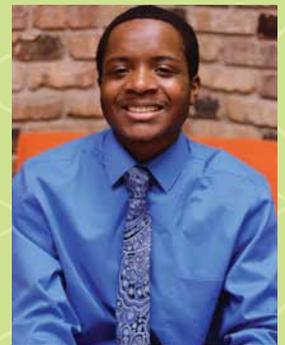


Among all those who know him, Sonny Callahan Club's Youth of the Year Javelle Johnson is recognized as someone who cares deeply about the welfare of others, is focused and motivated, and respectful of others. However, that was not always true.

In 2009, the murder of Javelle's father devastated his family, and he struggled to cope with seeing his family suffer and with his own intense anger. Added to those obstacles was the fact that he has a learning disability, so going to school was especially "difficult and depressing." But within a few months of his attending, the Club became an after-school safe haven for Javelle. Gradually, with the support of Club staff, participation in a variety of activities and mentoring the younger Club members, Javelle began to mature and learned how to cope with the obstacles in his life.

As a member of the Club's "Job Ready" workforce training program, Javelle's responsibilities include the maintenance and cleaning of the Club, something in which he takes great pride. Javelle attends Theodore High School, and is known as an exemplary student who is intense about learning and goes beyond what is required in class. After graduating high school, Javelle wants to enroll in Bishop State Community College's welding apprenticeship program.

*"The person that I have become is something that no one would have expected me to become. Going to the Club molded me into a different person." - Javelle L. Johnson*



*Javelle J.*

Sonny Callahan Branch



*Kiera S.*

Kiwanis Branch

Although Kiera Sullivan is only in her freshman year at W.P. Davidson High School, she has already made an impact at school, at the Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club, and in her community.

Kiera is a member of Davidson's cheerleading squad and the Delta Academy, and is a Girl Scout. At the Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club, she is a member of the Keystone Club and has served as president of the Torch Club since 2019.

Her love for children and their well-being is evidenced by the fact that she is in demand as a dependable baby-sitter for several families, experience which is helping her achieve the future goal of pursuing a career as a pediatrician. Upon graduation from Davidson High in 2024, Kiera wants to attend the University of South Alabama as the next step in achieving her career choice.

Kiera states that her Club helped her to "come out of her shell," to develop better communication skills and to focus on her future goals. She states, "I'm so grateful for the Kiwanis Club because I have a safe, positive learning environment to complete my school work."

*"No matter how tough things get, never give up!" - Kiera Sullivan*



**Brooklyn R.**

Semmes Branch

Brooklyn Rowell became a member of the Semmes Boys & Girls Club as a second grader, but she did not want to be there. "I constantly complained that I did not want to go anymore," she says. "I stayed to myself, was very quiet and did not participate in many activities." But with the encouragement of Club staff, Brooklyn soon became active in several programs, and eight years later she is a leader among her peers and a role model to younger girls.

Brooklyn credits her involvement in Club programs as having provided her with confidence, skills and knowledge, and cites the "No Limits Girls' Aviation" program as having the greatest impact on her plans for an aviation career. Because of her involvement with "No Limits," including serving as the program's Teen Leader, Brooklyn received a scholarship to attend the summer program at the Naval Flight Academy.

At Mary Montgomery High School, she has a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Honor Society and the volleyball team. Additionally, with the Mobile Storm volleyball team she is on the top team in her age group, and was named Player of the Tournament for the "15 National" team. Upon graduation from high school in 2023, she intends to enter Liberty University.

A love of serving others is shown by Brooklyn's mentorship with the Kids' Ministries at Dayspring Baptist Church, where she does media/ tech duties for the elementary department, assists in the preschool area, and sets up and cleans for Wednesday night services. Community service includes volunteering with food pantries, the Ronald McDonald House, and Cleaning the Gulf Coast.

*"We have the responsibility to love others. I believe the best way to do that is through service." - Brooklyn Rowell*

From being a self-described quiet, shy child during his first months as a member of the Optimist Boys & Girls Club, over the years Noah Mingo has become a leader and spokesperson for the Club at media appearances and outreach events. He is also known at school and church for these communication skills, leadership ability and positive attitude.

Noah's selection as his Club's Youth of the Year for three consecutive years reflect how much he has taken advantage of the opportunities and experiences available at his Club. He is editor of the Club's monthly newsletter, serves as the master of ceremony at events and assists with fundraising. BGCSA's Job Ready program provided Noah with his first job, and the chance to develop a good work ethic and social skills. He perfected his cooking skills in the Club's Culinary class, has served as Keystone Club president, is a member of the Gavel Club and Omega Lamplighters, and organized community and club clean-up events. He was one of a select group of Club teens who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Camp in 2019.

Noah is an active member of Destiny Vision Christian Center where he is a member of the sound and media team. In 2019 he was the recipient of an Achievement Award from the church which is given to those who maintain a high moral standard and community involvement.

Noah will graduate from Grace Baptist Academy in May of this year, and intends to enter the University of South Alabama to pursue a degree in Psychology.

*"We can agree to disagree and still live peacefully." - Noah Mingo*



**Noah M.**

Optimist Branch



presented by



Go online to watch the stories of our YOY candidates

[BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/YOY](http://BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/YOY)

**LEXUS 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MAYORS' CUP**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

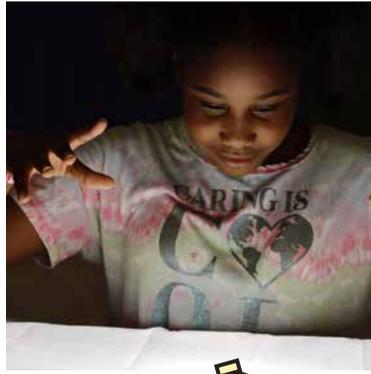
**October 1, 2021**

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT MAGNOLIA GROVE**



Registration Deadline  
**SEPT. 3, 2021**  
For More Information  
**251.432.1235**

For Team Registration Email:  
bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org



## Photography Club

We believe in fostering our members' creativity through many different avenues, including photography! Our Photography Club, led by Tiffany Pogue, BGCSA Club Media Specialist, teaches our youth the basic principles of photography and allows them to be free with their creative expression.

Throughout the year, our members will be taking pictures to prepare for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America - National Photography Program.

The National Photography Program is designed to help members go beyond snapshots and develop skills to take photographs that can really impact the viewer.

The current popularity and accessibility of photography makes it a powerful means to engage youth of all ages in creative programming, while simultaneously teaching them skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

For some youth, photography opens a door to creative self-expression that no other art form allows. Others may discover a career path!



## College Closet

Our Club teens have worked hard, won scholarships and will be leaving for college soon. However, they often don't have all the things needed for college living. So, a few years ago BGCSA's Teen Services Director, Jermaine West, started the "College Closet". Since 2018, generous donors such as Target, the Nutcracker Ball Debutantes, Churches, sororities and individuals have helped to provide over 120 college-bound Club members with personal hygiene items, school supplies, bed linens, bath linens, cleaning and laundry items to take with them on their college journey. Contact [jwest@bgcsouthal.org](mailto:jwest@bgcsouthal.org), if you have questions or go to [bgcsouthal.org/wishlists](http://bgcsouthal.org/wishlists)

### Closet Needs

- Twin bedsheet sets (regular or XL)
- Pillows/Pillowcases
- Mattress Pad (regular or extra long)
- Twin Blanket (regular or extra long)
- Twin Bed Comforter or Bedspread (regular or XL)
- Towels, Hand Towels, Washcloths
- Laundry Basket or Laundry Bag
- Detergent, Softener, Stain Remover Clothes Hangers
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant
- School Supplies





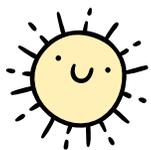
# SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Our Summer Enrichment Program is kid-focused, fun, and engaging!



## Summer Enrichment Art

Our kids created fantastic art this summer in partnership with the Mobile Arts Council.



# Jr. Youth of the Year



**Jayla Ragin**  
Meadowlake Branch  
CCLC



**Zaneta Derks**  
Mobile County Training School Branch  
CCLC



**Jordan Fluker**  
Gilliard Branch  
CCLC



**Christopher Kelly**  
Hollinger's Branch  
CCLC



**Zadrekah Bradley**  
Chastang K-8 Branch  
CCLC



**Richard Blakely**  
Calloway-Smith Branch  
CCLC





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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**Congratulations Class of 2021**  
**#BGCSAMade**



**Class of**  
**2021**

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Arionna Beard     | Tommie Law III        |
| Jatarra Bell      | Abigail Layton        |
| Jordan Bell       | Seth Lewis            |
| Kiley Bradley     | Brandyn Mack          |
| Kendall Buchanant | Karlisha Matthews     |
| Alexandria Caples | Madelaine McGallagher |
| Chelsey Coleman   | Hailey McLendon       |
| MacKenzie Crosby  | Jordan Mcneal         |
| Caleb Davis       | Zoe McNew             |
| Christa Davis     | Noah Mingo            |
| Jarrett Davis     | Jaden Mosely          |
| Victoria Duncan   | Kiara Mosley          |
| Noah Eaton        | Genesis Powe          |
| Destyne Evans     | Joseph Purifoy        |
| Donald Gaines     | Angelo Robinson       |
| Mateo Garror      | Raydale Shavers       |
| Winston Gulley    | Seandria Smith        |
| Jeremiah Harris   | Ashton Streeter       |
| Jimmy Herman      | Treyvon Tate          |
| Jordyn Hill       | Aiden Walker          |
| Isiah Horn        | TraVonn Wiggins       |
| Christian Jackson | Dontrez Williams      |
| Samyra Lambert    |                       |