

Because YOU cared

Doing Whatever It Takes to Continue Building Great Futures



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA



“I like the curiosity of working with kids, growing with them, and just hanging out with them.”

Brianna Burrell

Miss Baldwin County 2023
Club Volunteer

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Thank You Johnny Sjöström



Visit With SSAB



Johnny Sjöström, President SSAB Alabama, took the time to visit with Club Kids at our Bernard Malkove Boys & Girls Club to share his story about choices, leadership, and perseverance. While sharing his struggles as a youth, Sjöström encourages Club kids to find an outlet to air their frustrations. He applauds the great work of BGCSA for being that outlet and safe place for children and youth!



SSAB Americas has been “reinventing the future of steel” and futures for Club kids by supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama through their philanthropy. They sponsor BGCSA Golf Tournaments and Youth of the Year Ceremonies, employee volunteer efforts and on-the-job internship opportunities, and hold tours of SSAB facilities.

Thank you, Johnny Sjöström and SSAB, for continuously investing in our Club kids in so many different ways!

Barbara and Bernard Malkove Scholarship Fund Established

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama is honored to announce the establishment of the Barbara and Bernard Malkove Scholarship Fund. Bernard “Berney” Malkove was a long-time supporter of BGCSA, serving in numerous positions on the Board of Directors, and as a National Trustee of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Berney passed away in 2021, and in keeping with his wishes, Barbara endowed the Scholarship soon after.

A respected businesswoman in her own right, and former City of Mobile Finance Director, Barbara Malkove directed that the Scholarship be awarded to a female Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama graduating senior who intends to enter the University of South Alabama to pursue a degree in science, math, technology or engineering. The scholarship will provide full

tuition and books for one year, and may be renewable upon application.

Barbara states, “Our hopes, Berney and my own, are for the young people of our community to learn important life lessons through the opportunities offered by the Clubs. Active in the Boys & Girls Club movement for many years, Berney knew that our youth often need funds to attend college, and it is in his memory that I established this scholarship.”

Eligible Club members who are interested in applying for the Barbara and Bernard Malkove Scholarship may contact Brenda Carlisle, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org.



Throw Me Something!



A great advantage of living in Mobile is celebrating in the birthplace of Mardi Gras. For over 25

years, our Club kids love getting to ride in the annual Floral Parade. Some of the Optimist Club members rode in the parade the Saturday before Mardi Gras, and the Youths of the Year and Junior Youths of the Year rode in the Lundi Gras parade on Monday. The kids are able to have this amazing experience through the generosity of the Floral Parade Committee of the Mobile Carnival Association sponsoring the float, and Toomey's Mardi Gras and Rock the Float for providing beads and throws.

AJ McCarron & Shop with a Cop



Twenty Club kids from the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama got an opportunity to shop with a cop at Academy Sports + Outdoors, thanks to efforts from former Club kid and St. Louis Battlehawks quarterback AJ McCarron. The children ranged from 8 through 12 years old and came from the Sonny Callahan Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama.

McCarron said he could relate to the children's experience at their Boys & Girls Club. "I played baseball there for their baseball team one summer and played basketball, and it really helped me. It meant a lot to me to have somewhere to go and be around other kids and enjoy sports and the care that those people provide there. It's awesome to be able to team up with them and help give back."

Each Club kid was given a \$125 gift card to shop for their favorite items with assistance from representatives of Alabama Law Enforcement.



Diversity in the World of STEM



A good mentor is there to listen, to support and to shine a light on potential. Brianna Burrell is just that mentor. She began her BGCSA journey as a volunteer. With a passion for STEM, she then worked as a STEM educator and SMART girls program director at our Bernard Malkove Branch. Bri says, "I like the curiosity of working with kids, growing with them, and just hanging out with them." Bri is currently busy as Miss Baldwin County 2023 and is on a mission to become a juvenile defense attorney. She still volunteers with Boys & Girls Clubs, and has just written her first children's book, "Investigation Nation: Who



Made It?" This book explores diversity in the world of STEM by highlighting inventors of color and their creations.

Though it is geared towards K-5th grade, this is a great read for teachers, students, or anyone wanting to explore diversity in STEM! Her book is available for purchase on Amazon. Every day, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama strive to provide mentors like Bri Burrell to help kids grow into confident, capable adults.





All Stars Program

To increase opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and recognition, we've teamed up with Buffalo Wild Wings to create the All Stars Program -offering high-quality, structured sports programming!



Our Club members may only see themselves enjoying fun, competitive games of flag football, while we notice them receiving the benefits of

learning athletic fundamentals, team building, and leadership!

Your child, age 6-18, can join in on the fun at one of our six Clubs across South Alabama by visiting bgcsouthal.org/clubs!



Giving Back



Please welcome our new Associate Branch Director for Foley, Felicia Chesmer-Buhta!



Felicia is a former Club kid from Minnesota, and is a retired captain from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in Minneapolis. Her work there included directing and developing an at-risk youth program in partnership with their court system, where she had the opportunity to partner with area Boys & Girls Clubs.

Now retired to the warmer climate of Orange Beach with her husband and kids, Felicia is excited for this new opportunity - seems she was destined to be part of the Boys & Girls Club family!



In Memorial

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama mourns the recent passing of Mr. Doug Houston, who founded and sponsored an Annual Fishing trip for our kids.

Doug Houston brought the joy of the outdoors to millions of people, including viewers of his TV series, "Doug Houston Outdoors". Doug fished the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay for over 50 years and had more than 200 career team fishing tournament victories to his credit.

Doug's deep concern for the youth in the Mobile area led him to coordinate and direct the annual Kids Wish'N To Go Fish'N event. This kid's event started in 1997 and continues to be held each year. This event provides children, who would otherwise not get the opportunity to fish in the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay, an opportunity to be paired with other community-minded adults for a day of fishing.



Mobile Arts Council

In 2008, Mobile Arts Council (MAC) began a partnership with BGCSA through their ChARTing New Directions educational outreach programming by providing arts education at area Clubs. Programming varies yearly based on funding and Club needs. Still, it has included year-round art instruction, summer-only programs, and public art-type projects where Club kids collaborate with area artists to create works of art. Some have included murals, window art, and community gardens.

“We have a great working relationship with the clubs and look forward to teaching the art program this summer,” says Lucy Gafford, MAC executive director. Last year, 2,494 Club kids were served at no cost to the Clubs, and MAC provided art supplies and instructors.

Although supplies are needed for classes, art is more than a tangible object. Art provides an outlet for self-expression, as evidenced in last summer’s puppet-making classes, where they combined written, visual, and performing arts through sharing their story with their peers. Club kids wrote their scripts, made puppets, and performed their skits during the Club talent show. The BGCSA program is unique because of participation in the summer. They can immerse themselves in art and create without a grade being attached to the class.

MAC hopes to expose more students to the arts through the AMP Up the Arts Program to build inequities in programs through the schools where access to art classes is limited. “Having art in classrooms, builds self-esteem, and teaches communication. Art teaches life skills, confidence and prepares them for the future” Angela Montgomery, MAC development director explains.

To learn more about the program, or how you can support or volunteer with MAC, visit www.mobilearts.org.



Center of Hope

Panda Cares Center of Hope is a newly renovated space within our Kiwanis Club designed to deliver more joy, education, and critical social-emotional development to local communities.

The Center of Hope is funded by the Panda Cares Foundation, powered by the in-store donation program of Panda Express.

Project Learn, the platform that unites each Center of Hope, is a holistic strategy intended to reinforce and enhance what youth learn during the school day while creating experiences that invite them to fall in love with learning.

Students do better in school when they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun and academically beneficial activities. Our Panda Cares Center of Hope was designed to meet the needs of our Club members and includes new Chromebook laptops, reading nooks, and comfortable spaces for them to learn, engage and grow!

Panda Cares is powered by their in-store donation program, Panda associates, and valued business partners. Panda creates safe spaces where youth can learn, play, receive guidance and support to become their best selves.

Thank you Panda Cares Foundation for supporting our young people!



Parent Spotlight



Meet Cecelia Hawkins, one of our Kiwanis Club Parents.

Cecelia Hawkins, a Club alumna and parent to Club kid Julian, recalled sweet memories from her childhood with Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs while sharing her experience as a parent of a Club kid. Enrolling her son Julian was a full-circle moment knowing he would be under the care of dedicated staffers and Coach Carlis Timmons, who teaches those same life lessons she taught Cecelia as a youth.

Our parents are the most critical component of our facilities. Thank you Cecelia Hawkins, and thousands of other Club parents, for trusting us and believing in our mission to create great futures in South Alabama.

Become a Club parent by registering your child at bgcsouthal.org/clubs.



Whatever It Takes

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Happiness On A Stick



From 1999-2011 Matt Cook attended Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast (BGCEC). He credited the director, the staff, and participation in Club programs for steering him in the right direction. "The BGCEC kept me out of trouble," Cook says. "My friends that stayed with the Club entered college, the workforce, started families and became self-sufficient," Cook says.



His current position allows him to work as director of accounting and do something he loves—helping children and youth. He spreads joy and happiness by donating Frios Pops to local Boys & Girls Clubs.

"Their commitment impacts the lives of our children and youth by providing a nurturing environment and safe space to learn and be a kid."

He thanks his supportive staff, which includes former Club kids and Frios Pops owner Cliff Kennedy for the opportunity to give back to an organization that's been instrumental in his growth and development and also to kids nationwide.

Greatly Missed



Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama mourns the passing of long-time board member and supporter, Dr. Lynda Marie Perry Carroll on January 8, 2023.



Lynda was born and raised in Washington, D.C. Her professional career in public education spanned a remarkable 44 years. She excelled as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal, and administrator, inspiring generations of students and

teachers from Glen Cove, New York to Miami, Florida to Mobile, Alabama. After relocating to Mobile to join her husband Marion, she embarked on the final phase of her career as an Assistant Superintendent of Mobile County Public Schools.

Lynda's commitment to civic engagement and volunteerism was evident throughout her life, and is a testament of her willingness to give back and lead others. Her most recent contributions include serving as Board Chair of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. Notably, on November 10, 2022, the Boys & Girls Clubs Alabama Area Council bestowed its highest honor upon Lynda, inducting her into its Hall of Fame for her dedication, leadership and service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama.

We offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Lynda Carroll. She will be greatly missed.

Planet Fitness



In October, Planet Fitness locations in Mobile on University Blvd, Schillinger Rd, Dauphin Street and Tillman's Corner hosted Club kids and had game challenges, bake sales, and other fun activities to raise money for Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama (BGCSA).

Planet Fitness' mission is to enhance people's lives by providing a high-quality fitness experience in a welcoming, non-intimidating environment, called the Judgment Free Zone.



Together with BGCSA, Planet Fitness aims to empower a generation

to grow up contributing to a more judgment free planet – a place where everyone feels accepted and like they belong. Thank you Planet Fitness for raising donations for Clubs of South Alabama and your continued support of Great Futures for our Club Kids.



One Beat At A Time



No one knows the impact music, specifically drumming, can bring to an environment better than Wayne Curtis, founder, and C.E.O. of Mobile Alabama Africatown

Drummers (M.A.A.D.) L.L.C. His love of drumming allowed him to study his craft with the best and brightest and play throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean.

Curtis believes when much is given, much is required, and he uses his skills as a drummer and his life experiences to teach, motivate and inspire a sense of pride, culture, self-worth, and discipline for tomorrow's future leaders. "It's just what I do," he says.

The now-retired medical technologist and cytotechnologist could have taken various paths other than serving his country as a Naval corpsman and attending college at Norfolk State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in medical technology.

In his travels, Curtis has lived and worked in Florida, California, Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia. However, what has remained a constant in his life is giving back to his community and volunteering. "Youth need to be encouraged," he says. "Many don't reach their potential because no one motivates them."



Keep the Dream Alive



In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy, our Club teens held up signs while walking through the streets of downtown Mobile, AL to encourage their community to keep MLK's dream alive. They also created a video of the march for our YouTube channel.



Our CEO Robert Kennedy, Jr. was the keynote speaker at the Baldwin County 36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and March in Fairhope. Since its founding in 1987, the King celebrations continue to be a mainstay in Baldwin County. Kennedy is doing whatever it takes to keep the dream alive.

"I appreciate Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, because we wouldn't be where we are today without him." - Zane, Optimist Club Teen

See the video at [youtube.com/@BoysGirlsClubsofSouthAlabama](https://www.youtube.com/@BoysGirlsClubsofSouthAlabama)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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MAY 25TH
Begins at 11:30 AM

Renaissance Mobile
Riverview Plaza Hotel

BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/YOY



JUNE 29TH
6:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Watch us live
on WKRQ-TV5

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LEXUS 32ND
MAYORS' CUP
GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 6TH
Begins at 11:30 AM

Robert Trent Jones Golf
Trail at Magnolia Grove

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