

Because YOU cared

Doing Whatever It Takes to Continue Building Great Futures



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA



“Now in our fourth year with the Gulf Coast Children’s Book Festival, we hope by introducing kids to their favorite authors, we will spark a love of reading at an early age.”

Rosa Monteiro

Director of Academic Excellence

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Take a look inside  to find out more about our current programs.



Kids Wish-N to go Fish-N Trip



The **Kids Wish-N To Go Fish-N** annual event just celebrated its 26th anniversary. Started by Doug Houston, the event was continued this year after his passing by Russell Fell and Greg Callahan. Wish-N To Go Fish-N took 30 kids from the Semmes and Malkove Boys & Girls Clubs to enjoy a fun-filled day fishing. Club Kids took a charter bus with a police escort to the Dauphin Island Marina where they loaded onto The Duke charter boat for a three-hour deep-sea fishing trip. All kids who participated received a goodie bag, custom shirt, and a 2023 Anglers Award. They also kept any fish they caught, their tackle box, and rod & reel.



2023 Telethon

With a generous challenge grant from The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, we had a very successful **2023 Our City, Our Future Telethon** for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. We are grateful for the support of WKRG News 5, Jags Impact, Panda Express, our board members and all of our sponsors and volunteers who worked so hard to make this happen. It's not too late to donate, see our website bgcsouthal.org/telethon for more information.



Reality Check

Our IGNITE teens participated in the Reality Check program, **"Your Money, Your Life: Living in the Real World."** This program was created by The Alabama Cooperative Extension System an organization of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University in cooperation with Tuskegee University. Reality Check is a hands-on, real-life simulation that addresses financial management on a student level. For Reality Check purposes, students are given a monthly salary and a career. From there they juggle paying rent, buying a car and incurring household expenses. The Ignite Program is a teen development program geared to help develop good character and positive leadership skills in a fun and caring environment. Learn more about our teen programs at bgcsouthal.org/teen.



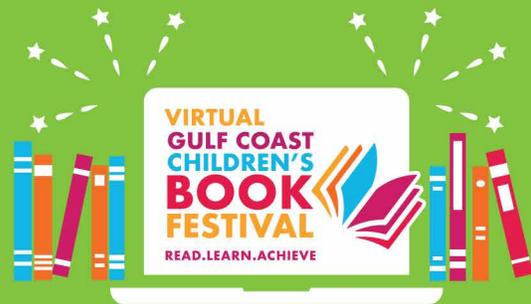
Day of Caring



Each year, the United Way of Southwest Alabama hosts a **Day of Caring** for their partner organizations. This year, one of the teams from Olin Chemical spent the day building a walkway at Camp Chandler-Tonsmeire. The walkway looks great. Thank you United Way of Southwest Alabama for all you do for Boys & Girls Clubs!



Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival



In May, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama invited teachers and students in Mobile County Public Schools to our 2023 Virtual Gulf Coast



Children's Book Festival. This free event featured author interviews, book spotlights, and free book giveaways for teachers, students and entire classrooms! Established in 2019, the goal of the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is to get books into the hands of young readers and inspire a life-long love of reading.

This year featured live interviews with children's book authors Sonya Connor, Judy Schachner, and Margaret Peterson Haddix. Classes who attended received prizes such as drawstring bags with a book for each child in their class. Director of Academic Excellence, Rosa Monteiro also gave away signed copies of books, class sets and special illustrated copies of books.



The Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is part of our Read. Learn. Achieve Initiative, designed to improve the reading literacy of our kids.

Advocates For Girls



On May 20th, we hosted our 2nd Annual Advocates for Girls Conference, **"More Than Enough"**. The conference aims to help guide our pre-teen girls through adolescence, recognize our outstanding girls, and connect them with the prominent women in our community who participated alongside them. Conversations surrounding self-worth and success existed through forums, workshops, journal prompts, and group vision boards. We also included

interactive games, yoga, dance, and improv to stay active throughout the conference. Participants left with a sense of pride in their authentic selves and a feeling of female-led support in our community!

This year's theme, 'More Than Enough,' teaches girls that they are more than enough, exactly as they are. This theme was inspired by Keynote Speaker Jabaria Dent, who came into her self-love by realizing she was more than enough.

Thanks to the Fikes Foundation for being the premier sponsor and Mary G. Montgomery High School Horticulture Program for donating the lovely centerpieces. Thank you to Angela Dunn, the most active member of BGCSA's Advocates for Girls, Women's Giving Circle. Lastly, thank you to every woman who showed up to support of the girls. We can't wait for next year's conference!





2023 Youth of the Year Celebration



We held our annual **Youth of the Year Luncheon** at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. This incredible event spotlights our outstanding Youth of the Year recipients. Our guests were able to hear how the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama impacts youth like Ryan, Jayden, Ashleigh, Rashaad, Kayleigh, Brooklyn, and all of the Club kids sitting at their tables.

Thank you to all our Board members and staff for putting this beautiful event together. Thank you to our title sponsor, SSAB, and our supporters for doing #WhateverItTakes to foster a new generation of leaders in South Alabama. Thank you to our Keynote Speaker, Olivier Charles, President of Bishop State Community College, for the inspirational words; our Master of Ceremonies, Gerhard Mathangani; and our Distinguished Alumni Speaker, Tiffany Pogue. Finally, thank you to our Youth of the Year for stepping up and telling your stories with courage and poise.

2023 Junior Youth of the Year



Gabrielle A.
Bernard Malkove Branch



Jason J.
Foley Branch



Nyla B.
Kiwanis Branch



D'asha R.
Optimist Branch



Harmoni J.
Semmes Branch



Ryleigh J.
Sonny Callahan Branch



Alabama Youth of the Year **Ryan** joined the Bernard Malkove Branch in the summer of 2017. He participates in UPS Road Code, We Own Friday, Keystone Club, and Torch Club and is an inaugural member of the President's Club. Ryan will graduate in 2024 and plans to attend Jackson State University.

**Youth of the Year Ryan M.,
Bernard Malkove Branch**



Ashleigh is a student at Theodore High School, where she's on the honor roll with a 4.0 GPA and a perfect attendance record since 2010. At the Club, she serves as Keystone Club secretary, mentors the younger kids and has worked on various community service and fundraising.

**Ashleigh R.,
Sonny Callahan Branch**



Jayden is a Foley High School junior who serves as a youth volunteer at the Club, assisting Club kids with homework and completing school assignments, group activities, and games at the Club. He also gives positive reinforcements while members work on projects.

**Jayden J.,
Foley Branch**



Brooklyn joined in 2013. She was involved in programs such as Smart Girls, Torch Club, Keystone Club, and No Limits Aviation Club and was named BGCSA 2022 Youth of the Year. Brooklyn graduated in 2023 and will further her education by attending the University of Mobile.

**Brooklyn R.,
Semmes Branch**



Rashaad joined the club in 2016. He serves as Keystone club president, Boys & Girls Clubs of America Presidents Circle, job-ready Program, and completed a paid summer internship as the Club photographer. He is a rising senior at Davidson High School.

**Rashaad J.,
Kiwanis Branch**



Kayleigh has participated in Smart Girls, Gavel Club, Torch Club, and the Ignite Program. The rising senior at Murphy High School is a National Honor Society member and a Student Ambassador. After graduating high school, she wants to further her studies at Southern University.

**Kayleigh M.,
Optimist Branch**



Wild West Fest

Eight youths and two chaperones spent a week at the **Wild West Fest** in Telluride, Colorado this summer. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Sheridan Arts Foundation's festival at the Sheridan Opera House. Wild West Fest brought youth from Boys & Girls Clubs throughout America to Telluride each year for enriching and empowering experiences.

Maggie Stevens, public relations and marketing director at the Sheridan Arts Foundation, said it's a partnership that began in 1992, and this year there were 34 kids and eight counselors in Telluride. "This is one of our favorite events of the year," Stevens said. "Everyone is focused on bringing kids to Telluride, giving them a camp experience and, helping them learn new skills and try new things in a supportive and noncompetitive environment."

Our youth enjoyed their time in Telluride experiencing horseback riding, music at the opera house, paddleboarding, swimming, a pie-eating contest, and hiking in the mountains with the outdoor adventure group. Several of our Youths of the Year attended. Rashaad summed up his experience when he said, "This town has left me in complete awe."

"This town has left me in complete awe."
- YOY Rashaad



Donor Spotlight



Thank you to Dennis Hargrove and **The Hargrove Foundation** for being a generous financial supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama for many years. The Hargrove Foundation impacts our youth by funding STEM classes and supporting our annual events such as the Youth of the Year luncheon and the Mayor's Cup Annual Golf Tournament. They are a 2022 Helping Hands Award recipient, for their enduring dedication and stewardship to making a positive difference in the lives of our Club members and our entire organization! We are so grateful to Dennis Hargrove, BGCSA Board Member Ronnie Stallworth Sr. and all the supporters at The Hargrove Foundation for providing great futures for our Club kids.



hargrove 

Healthy Habits



Thank you to **Fresenius Medical Care** for bringing the Kidney Kid event to the kids in our Kiwanis Club. This presentation taught kids how our kidneys function, and how eating healthy and exercising can prevent kidney disease. After the presentation, the kids all signed a poster, received a goodie bag, and watched a fun performance on keeping your kidneys healthy. Thank you, Cary Salerno, Diana Campione, and Fresenius for teaching healthy habits in our Club!



Jags Impact



Summer Camp Fun



Summer Day Camp is in full swing at **Camp Chandler-Tonsmeire**! This year's camp theme is "Turning Couch Potatoes into Action Heroes." Camp director Greg Hall is passionate about kids putting down their devices and playing outside. Campers stay busy on the 140-acre campsite with outdoor activities like gaga ball, archery, and nature walks. Campers stay hydrated, take a dip in the swimming pool to cool off, and treat themselves to a ride on the brand-new pedal boats to supplement the canoes on the pond. Campers return home confident that they can meet new challenges, build new skills, and make new friends. But, most importantly, Camp Chandler-Tonsmeire is a place where kids can be kids again.

"We were made for nature and nature for us, the further we separate the worse it is for both of us. My life has been invested in slowing that separation."

- Greg Hall



Thank you to the **Jags Impact Program** representatives for touring our Bernard Malkove Club and visiting with the kids. The program is an innovative initiative that partners University of South Alabama student-athletes with non-profit organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. South football players, Wy'Kevious "Bubba" Thomas, La'Damian Webb, and Yamaurus "Yam" Banks had a chance to meet our Club staff and see the kids in action during a typical summer day. They also volunteered during our annual telethon, answering the phones and playing with the kids in the Kiwanis Club. The Jags Impact Program was established in 2023 as an innovative initiative that partners University of South Alabama student-athletes with non-profit organizations. Through volunteering, workshops, and mentoring, participants contribute to the betterment of the community and cultivate a deeper understanding of social responsibility, teamwork, and problem-solving. Jags Impact utilizes the influence of South Alabama student-athletes to raise awareness for charitable causes and organizations in our area.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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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

BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/GOLF