

# Because YOU cared



Doing Whatever It Takes to Continue Building Great Futures



“Thank you, Nonnie Parker & William Burks. You all dedicated so much time to your work. You loved the kids like they were your own.”

*Vanity Parker-Ford*  
2012-2015 Youth of the Year

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

## Field Trip Fun



Our Foley Boys & Girls Club had some amazing field trip experiences this summer! Field trips allow us to see the kids step out of their element and explore the wider world. They were able to visit Alligator Alley in Summerdale and some of our brave kids even had the chance to hold a baby alligator. Our Club kids also had a chance to visit the USS Alabama. The USS Alabama served during World War II in the North Atlantic and the South Pacific seas. Our Club kids love exploring the "Mighty A" as part of our Summer Enrichment Program. Summertime in the Club is when kids make lasting memories of new adventures, discover new interests, and spend time laughing with friends.

## Basketball Skills Session



Boys & Girls Club members participated in a special basketball skills session with Barry Dunning, Jr. Barry is a college basketball player at UAB and a McGill Toolen Alumni. "Bohan Believes Community Giveback Program" was formed by Barry in 2022 with the goal to motivate and inspire the youth of his community via three initiatives: basketball camps, mentorship, and mental health awareness activities. Thank you to Barry and his volunteers for giving the kids a fun afternoon, working on their skills!



## College Closet

Our annual College Closet supplies new college students from our Clubs who are moving into the dorms with all the necessary supplies. With help from Target, students received detergent, sheets, blankets, cleaning and hygiene supplies. It includes everything a new college student needs away from home! Graduates of BGCSA are attending Alabama A&M University, The University of South Alabama, Coastal Alabama Community College, Tuskegee University, Bishop State Community College, and University of Mobile.



Our 2022 Youth of the Year, Brooklyn, also received a new laptop computer thanks to the Emily Hearin Scholarship. She is settled in to the University of Mobile this year.

*"Being a freshman moving into college is scary. However, thanks to the supplies I received at the club, I felt prepared and equipped to face my first few weeks."*

*– Brooklyn R.*



# Back to School Bash



Phi Fraternity, Inc. cooked lunch and helped load groceries into cars. Information booths from Spring Hill College, Drug Education Council, Inc., and the Child Advocacy Center of Mobile were available as a free community service.

Also, South Alabama student-athletes LaDamian Webb, Yamarus Banks, and Wykevious Thomas volunteered through Jags Impact, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness for charitable causes in the area, and Panda Express provided lunch for the volunteers.

Thanks to efforts from Director of Teen Services Jermaine West and Manager of Donor Relations Alycia Young, staff, volunteers, and sponsors, this day was a huge success.

Club kids and their families gathered at Kiwanis Club to enjoy the Inaugural Back to School Bash. Book bags filled with new school supplies and groceries sponsored by Starbucks and Target were provided for Club kids and their families. Face painting and free haircuts by barbering students from Bishop State Community College were available. Members of the Rho Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi

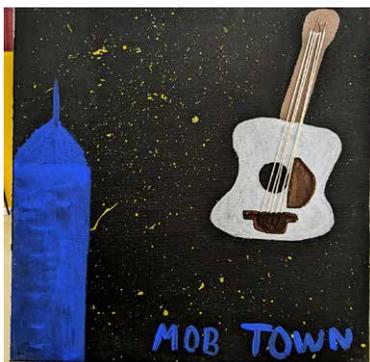
*"It was a great opportunity for our community partners to get involved with our mission."*  
- Jermaine West  
Director of Teen Services



## Jazz Art Writers South Artwork



Art created by Club kids was recently showcased in libraries across Mobile. The exhibit, part of the annual Jazz Art Writers South (J.A.W.S.) program, was displayed at various locations, including the Marx Library at the University of South Alabama, the Ben May Library, and the West Regional Branch. Local artist Soynika Edwards-Bush engaged the children at the Sonny Callahan, Bernard Malkove, and Kiwanis Clubs, encouraging them to express their unique interpretations of jazz music on canvas. The project was made possible by the University of South Alabama and the Mobile Arts Council.



## Parade of Puppets



The Semmes Club had a Parade of Puppets Show, thanks to the Mobile Arts Council (MAC)! Ms. Kathryn from MAC helped our Club Members create puppets out of paper, write a story about them and use different art supplies to bring the puppets to life. We are thankful for MAC and their investment in bringing the arts to our Clubs.



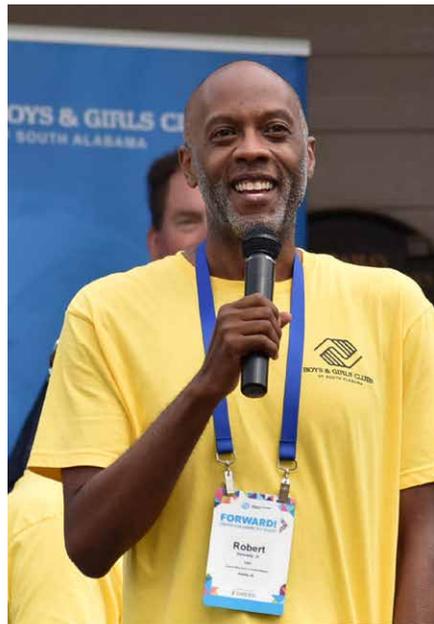
# LEXUS 32<sup>ND</sup> MAYORS' CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 32nd Annual Lexus Mayors' Cup Golf Tournament was held on October 6th and brought together over 40 golf teams for a day of golf and community support. Held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Magnolia Grove, the tournament served as a rallying point for both seasoned golfers and newcomers, all joining forces to contribute to the Boys & Girls Clubs

of South Alabama. The weather was nearly perfect, with sunshine and a cool breeze. After a day of golf, participants sat down to a delicious steak dinner and some were excited to win fantastic door prizes. The first place team on the Falls was Tommy Ankerson, Sam Nokovich, Scott Pete, and Matt Waters. The first place team on the Crossings was Sean Gleason, Keith Murray, Mark Spivey, & Spencer Wiggins.

At the tournament, Sage Hubbard was presented with the 2023 Lexus Bishop State Community College Scholarship. Sage is a freshman at Bishop State and will pursue a culinary career. She attended the Bernard Malkove Branch.

We are so thankful to all our staff, sponsors, volunteers, and board members who made this day possible. Learn more about the event at [bgcsouthal.org/golf](http://bgcsouthal.org/golf). Sign up next year to support our young people in South Alabama! For more information, call us at 251-432-1235.



# Blue Roof Library Trail



Three more libraries were added to our Blue Roof Library Trail this summer. Thank you to the residents in the Sky Ranch neighborhood for requesting a library for Sky Ranch Park. We also added libraries at Crestview Park and Hollinger's Island Elementary School! Rosa Monteiro, our Director of Academic Success, believes in getting more books into the hands of youth and families. These new libraries are part of our Blue Roof Library Trail, with over 30 small libraries in our area to fight low reading proficiency in children. To sponsor a library, call 251.432.1235 or email [rmonteiro@bgcsouthal.org](mailto:rmonteiro@bgcsouthal.org). Find out more at [bgcsouthal.org/bluroof](http://bgcsouthal.org/bluroof).



# Alumni Cookout



# 2023 National Keystone Conference



This summer, Keystone teens had a blast at the 56th annual National Keystone Conference in Dallas, Texas! This year's conference theme was "Thrive! Be Heard & Be You". The Keystone leadership development experience provides opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18 in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service. The teens mingled, learned what other Keystone clubs are doing, and our Keystone girls were able to attend a SMART Girls workshop while they were there. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Clubs aim to have a positive impact on members, the Club and community.



The Optimist Branch held their 2023 Alumni Reunion Cookout on September 16th. The event-themed "Journey Over the Years" brought together those who have played an integral role in shaping the legacy of the Optimist Branch, from volunteers and staff to Club kids, alumni, and parents. This event was particularly significant as it symbolizes the last public gathering at the current Optimist Branch location.

Former Youth of the Year, Vanity Parker-Ford thanked Club staff for their dedication to Club kids. "Thank you, Nonnie Parker & William Burks. You all dedicated so much time to your work. You loved the kids like they were your own, and even if they messed up a thousand times, you still gave us a chance after chance."

To his surprise, Burks received a Proclamation from the Mobile City Council declaring September 16, 2023, William Burks Day in the City of Mobile for his unwavering support of youth and dedication to the Optimist Boys & Girls Clubs. Mobile City Councilman Corey Penn, District 1, congratulated Burks on receiving "William Burks Day" in the City of Mobile. "He has helped so many youth in our city. He is truly a blessing to our city and our youth."



## Teen Career Development Program

Our teens learn valuable skills in the summer through our partnership with Starbucks. Teens visit local Starbucks as part of our career development program, where they learn valuable customer service skills while making their own drinks to sample. These photos are from our Semmes Club teens visiting the Starbucks in Saraland where they each were able to pick out a baked treat and a drink to go!



## Fishing Trip Fun

Our kids were excited to attend the 11th Annual Fishing Day for our Optimist Club kids with White-Spinner Construction and White-Spinner Realty Inc. Our kids made amazing memories out on the water and caught both red snapper and catfish. Thank you to White-Spinner, and Bradley and Eric from BGCSA for making this fun trip happen!



## Time to go Skating!

Our Clubs are always finding ways to work on Healthy Habits by emphasizing good nutrition, regular physical activity and improved overall well-being. One of the ways they make exercising fun is by taking trips to the local skating rink. Our Sonny Callahan kids and Bernard Malkove kids got a chance to take the rink and work on their skating skills while getting in their daily physical activity.



# Thank You The Daniel Foundation

Our CEO, Robert Kennedy, Jr. and the Chairman of the Board, Rev. David Frazier Sr. presented a plaque to The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, thanking them for the generous challenge grant in the 2023 Our City, Our Future Telethon. Over \$57,000 was raised from community donations, which unlocked the maximum dollar-for-dollar match of \$30,000 from the Daniel Foundation, totaling more than \$87,000 in funds raised. We appreciate the Daniel Foundation for doing whatever it takes to help kids in South Alabama.



# E. B. Peebles, Jr. Giving Society



# Ignite Summer Program



Our Ignite Teens wrapped up the summer with a trip to OWA Parks & Resort! The Ignite Program is a teen development program geared to help develop good character and positive leadership skills in a fun and caring environment.

*"The speakers we had over the summer were extraordinary people and I got a lot of information about my future career."*

*— Kayleigh M.*



Our Ignite teens volunteered at the food bank, packing food boxes for our recent Back to School Bash. Youth who volunteer feel more connected to their community, are more likely to show concern, and to stay in or return to their communities. We are so grateful to Jermaine West for providing volunteering opportunities for our teens!



*E.B. Peebles Jr.*  
GIVING SOCIETY

The E.B. Peebles, Jr. Giving Society hosted their Spring Reception at the beautiful home of Laura and Schley Rutherford. The Society honors the memory of a member of its founding Board of Directors. Mr. Peebles, a native and lifelong resident of Mobile, who was committed to the betterment of his beloved community and its citizens, particularly the thousands of young people whose lives have been impacted by Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. The reception was held to showcase Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama to current and prospective supporters. Special guest Ryan Mosley spoke about being the 2023 Alabama Youth of the Year. To learn more, visit our website at [bgcsouthal.org/giving](http://bgcsouthal.org/giving).

*"I give in E.B.'s honor because just like him, I believe in the potential of youth in our community."*

*— John Seibert*



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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Provides a  
one-hour  
group  
counseling  
session for  
10 youth

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Provides  
one week  
of fitness  
activities for  
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