

Because YOU cared

Great Futures for South Alabama Youth



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA



“A heartfelt thank you to our donors for their generous support. Your commitment is making a profound difference in the lives of the youth in South Alabama.”

Alycia Young
Manager of Donor Relations

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

African Drums

During Black History Month in February, The Harmon Thomas Partner Site members had the opportunity to learn the history and concepts of African drumming, taught by Wayne Curtis. Wayne is a drumming instructor for the Mobile Alabama Africatown Drummers (M.A.D.D.). Our young drummers practiced hard and performed in the Mobile Parks & Recreation Black History Talent Showcase.



Youth of the Year Interviews



"We were in awe and we were moved to tears. Each one of the finalists has such a brilliant future ahead of them and I am excited to keep up with them."
- Kelly Finley

This winter, our Youth of the Year finalists had their final judging with local area leaders. Each finalist presented their story and were asked interview questions by our panel of judges. The questions covered a variety of topics such as Club experience,

overcoming obstacles, and leadership. The answers provided judges with greater insight into each finalist's qualifications. Thank you to these exemplary leaders in the community who spent their Saturday mentoring and challenging our exemplary Club teens.

Jessica Wofford - Austal USA
Steven Aoyagi - FMC Corporation
Thomas Hayden- SSAB
Rachel Weekly - HPM

Sara Stroups - PlanetFitness
Sandley Destine - Healthy
Balanced Body Fitness
Kelly Finley - KFin Productions



Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival



★ April 25TH 9AM - 1PM AT THE GROUNDS ★

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama will welcome teachers and students to our annual Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival on April 25th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at The Grounds. This free event features children's book authors, live book readings, and free book giveaways for teachers, students, and entire classrooms! Drawstring backpacks will be given to the first 2000 children.

Scheduled to participate are the Mobile County Public School System, Mobile Public Library, National Maritime Museum, Fort Conde, Alabama Public Television, PACT Theatre and more. Established in 2019, the goal of the Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival aims to get books into the hands of young readers and inspire a lifelong love of reading. The Gulf Coast Children's Book Festival is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama's Read. Learn. Achieve Initiative.

For more information, contact Rosa Monteiro, Director of Academic Excellence at festival@bgcsouthal.org.



Youth of the Year Luncheon

We are thrilled to announce that Miss Alabama, Brianna Burrell will be gracing us with her presence as the keynote speaker for the upcoming 2024 Youth of the Year Luncheon. Brianna grew up in South Alabama and began her BGCSA journey as a young volunteer. She fell in love with the BGCSA mission, and her passion for STEM eventually led to her working as a STEM educator and SMART girls program director at the Bernard Malkove Branch. She was also involved with the annual Advocates for Girls Empowerment Conference, and frequently sings at BGCSA!

“Miss Bri is a kind-hearted person and she’s amazing with kids of all ages!”
- Austin, BGCSA Teen



The Youth of the Year Luncheon, sponsored by SSAB, is scheduled to take place at 11:30 AM on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. We look forward to coming together to support and



celebrate the incredible young leaders in our community. Table sponsorships are \$1,200 and will seat eight adults. Contact Alycia Young at ayoung@bgcsouthal.org with any questions about the luncheon.

A Passion For Art



At our Sonny Callahan Branch, we have a passion for art. Our members stay busy creating their art masterpieces in the Club, such as this marbling project that they adored. Engaging in arts and crafts projects empower children to express themselves creatively, fostering the development of self-esteem and self-worth. Incorporating art into the lives of children of all ages is a highly beneficial and enriching activity.



Parent Spotlight



Danny and Kimberly Mosley sought after-school programs to accommodate their work schedules while ensuring their kids' well-being. “We were looking for a safe place for our children. We wanted a place where they would feel comfortable and supported,” Kimberly Mosley expressed.

With this in mind, they found their answer at the Bernard Malkove Branch. The Club became much more than an after-school program. It became like a second home. At the Club, Kiara and Ryan honed their social, academic, leadership, and life skills by participating in various Club activities that led to volunteer opportunities and increased community engagement.

Their dedication and commitment to serving others culminated in receiving premier recognition

“Ryan discovered his true voice at the Club; he was once shy and hesitant, but the Club helped him blossom and come out of his shell”
- Danny & Kimberly Mosley

with Kiara as the 2021 BGCSA Youth of the Year and Ryan, as the BGCSA Youth of the Year in 2023 and 2024. Ryan was also honored to be the Alabama State Youth of the Year in 2023. The Bernard Malkove Branch is a testament to the positive impact of the Club, offering a haven where children and youth can thrive. With a focus on leadership, service,

academic excellence, and promoting healthy lifestyles, the Club continues to shape the future of countless children and youth. “Without a doubt, our children thrived at the Club, and we will forever be grateful for the opportunities and care they received.”



New Program



Growing up isn't easy. Clubs can help. In the new program from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, "Journeys: Paths to Adulthood", young people find the space, support and tools they need to navigate the journey of adolescence and emerge as strong, healthy young adults. This targeted program for ages 10-14 helps youth develop healthy attitudes and lifestyles they will carry into adulthood.

For the first sessions, Foley and Sonny Callahan Club members were led by Social Emotional Wellness Program Director, Tiffany Pogue to make group agreements and discuss their personal values. Then they played "the floor is lava" where youth had to rescue their values and explain what each means to them. They truly enjoyed the sessions and can't wait for the next ones when they explore identity!



Foster Grandparents

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Mr. Willie Jackson made a positive connection with Harmon Thomas Club members by teaching them checkers this winter. Mr. Jackson is retired and has been a part of the AmeriCorps Senior Foster Grandparent Program for over ten years. The program for seniors who want to volunteer with kids has been in Mobile for over 40 years. Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for all your time spent at the Optimist Club and now at the Harmon Thomas Community Center!



Ocean in my Bones



Several Club kids attended the "An Ocean in My Bones" stageplay held at Mobile County Training School. The annual Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival is an event sponsored by the Clotilda Descendants Association (CDA) that fulfills the mission to educate descendants and others about the history and culture of the 110 African captives who arrived in Mobile in 1860. The centerpiece of the last two Festivals (2022 and 2023) was the play "An Ocean in My Bones," the creation of playwright Terrance Spivey. The play begins in present-day (2019) Mobile, following the identification of the Clotilda in its burial water. The Africans were resurrected to tell their story through compelling drama, spiritual song, and African dance.





Owl in for STEM

Exciting day in STEM class! The young scientists in the Foley Boys & Girls Club dove into the world of biology by dissecting owl pellets. Pellets are the undigested parts of an owl's food that are coughed up by the owl. They can be pulled apart to find small bones and identify what the owl has been eating. Kudos to these future biologists for their hands-on learning adventure in Foley!



Semmes Art Exhibit

The Club members from our Semmes Branch are currently featured at an art exhibition at the Semmes Regional Library on Moffett Road. The kids have been working hard for months, creating new drawings, paintings, and collage art to display. The Library held a very special reception in February to mark the official opening of the exhibition. The display will continue to enchant visitors until March 29th with over 30 pieces of art created by Semmes Club members between 6-18 years old.



Outstanding Alumni



Moshae Donald is a former Club kid and distinguished alumni of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. She is a native Mobilian with deep ties to the Toulminville community. She is the owner and founder of the Law Office of Moshae Donald. Her firm provides legal support to federal and local government agencies, communities, families and children, and clients who need the most zealous but informed representation. She's received various awards and recognitions, including Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama Distinguished Alumni Award, Mobile Bay Magazine's Mobile's Top 40 Under 40 edition, of which she was the magazine's featured cover model, National Trial Lawyers, and other prestigious organizations for her aggressive representation and community activism. She's actively involved with ICU Mental Health Program and Legal Services of Alabama.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama gave me the support and love that I needed when my life could have gone a completely different direction. Mentors and advocates who welcomed me with open arms, affirmation, and accountability saved me in ways they probably did not know."



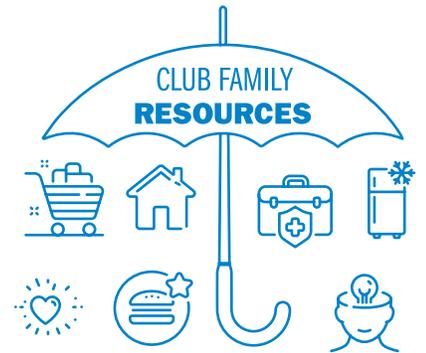


Family Engagement Coordinator



In February, Harrietta Eaton, BGCSA Family Engagement Coordinator, alongside Tiffany Pogue, Program Director for Social/ Emotional Wellness programs held Family Engagement Nights at the Kiwanis and Harmon locations. Family Engagement Nights is a new initiative held monthly at various Clubs and funded through grant dollars from Alabama Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. The new Trauma Informed/Mental Health Grant address the emotional, social, and mental health needs of Club youth and families. During the event, Club kids can play games and win prizes, while their parents fill out a needs assessment form to see what community services they may qualify for.

Eaton in her role will oversee the implementation of the Trauma Informed/ Mental Health Grant. She will provide crucial assessment, outreach, referrals to community services, and support for Club staff, youth, and families. She will also collaborate with community resources to develop evidence-based programs for emotional well-being.



☆☆ Advocates For Girls Conference



More than 60 girls aged 10-18 participated in the "Confidently Resilient" Girls Empowerment Conference hosted by Advocates for Girls Giving Circle at the Kiwanis Branch yesterday. Women from throughout the community emphasized the message that true resilience is born from the ability to learn, adapt, and grow. Moshae Donald, an attorney and alumna of the Club, delivered a compelling keynote speech, sharing her personal journey, her experience joining the Club, and her achievements since graduating. The conference showcased panel discussions on Confidence and Resilience, as well as

various breakout sessions focusing on mental health, financial health, and physical health. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to choose from a range of activities including yoga, improv, dance, and art sessions.



📖 Reading Rally



Thank you to our very own Alycia Young and Executive Women International (EWI) for hosting a Reading Rally for our Sonny Callahan Branch! EWI members Melinda Edwards, Marcine Lang, and Leslie Phillips brought a Taco Tuesday feast, as well as a book goodie bag for each child that attended. Mobile Police Chief Paul Prine also stopped in to read a book, and Liz from the Magic School Bus made an appearance. Making reading fun is an essential component for academic success. Thank you, EWI!



Great Futures For South Alabama Youth

For 67 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama have stood as a beacon of hope in the community, providing every child, regardless of their circumstances, the opportunity to build a bright and promising future. We offer a safe, positive environment where children and teenagers can learn, grow, and develop essential skills for success. They receive academic support, participate in character and leadership programs, and learn the importance of healthy lifestyles – all under the guidance of caring mentors.

Every day, we witness transformational changes in the lives of our youth – changes that flow through families, neighborhoods, and ultimately, our entire community.

The impact? We are proud to share that 100% of our active members:



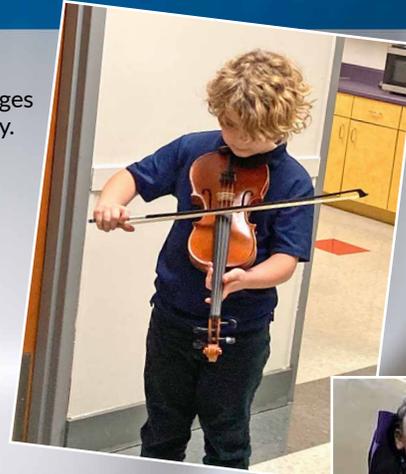
GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL
prepared for the next chapter in their lives



PURSUe POST SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES
college, trade schools, employment, or military service



AVOID RISKY BEHAVIORS such as teen pregnancy, drug use, and youth violence. Instead embracing a desire for a GREAT future



Donate on bgcsouthal.org/donate



How You Can Make a Difference

More children in our community need access to this life-changing program, particularly during the summer and after school – when youth are most vulnerable to falling through the cracks. Your generosity can create a lasting impact:

\$750

Summer Sponsorship: Sponsor a child to attend the Club during the summer, a time when they are at the greatest risk of failing behind academically and socially.

\$1,250

School Year Sponsorship: Ensure a child is safe, engaged, and learning after school for an entire school year, a critical period for developing academic and life skills.

\$2,000

Full Year Sponsorship: Extend your impact by sponsoring a child for the full year, encompassing both the summer and the school year, for a comprehensive support system that nurtures their continuous growth.

Join Us in Shaping Great Futures

By sponsoring a child, you're not just providing a safe place to go after school or during the summer; you're unlocking the door to a GREAT future for a child in need.

Please visit www.bgcsouthal.org to sponsor a child or make a donation today. Together, we can continue to transform lives and build a brighter tomorrow for all the children in our community.

Thank you for considering supporting the Great Futures for South Alabama Youth campaign. Your generosity can change a life.



With gratitude,

Keva Scott, Ed. S.
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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United Way
of Southwest Alabama

2024 SAVE *the* DATE



MAY 23RD
BEGINS AT 11:30 AM
 RENAISSANCE MOBILE
 RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL
BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/YOY



JUNE 26TH
6:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 WATCH US LIVE
 ON WKRG-TV5
BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/TELETHON



LEXUS 33RD
MAYORS' CUP
 GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCT 4TH
BEGINS AT 11:30 AM
 ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF
 TRAIL AT MAGNOLIA GROVE
BGCSOUTHAL.ORG/GOLF



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