

BGC Roundup

The Official Newsletter of Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MANATEE COUNTY

**They Need Us Now,
More Than Ever!**



Harnessing the Power of Their Voice

Ja'Lonia - Age 13



Out of Club
ACTIVITY PACKETS



Celebrating
BGC MC GRADS



Youth of the Year
Q & A WITH SANDRA

STANHOPE & OPPORTUNITY

True North....

I was on a conference call with other Boys & Girls Club CEOs from around the country recently, and the words True North stuck in my mind. We were talking about the tough conversations happening in our Clubs and with our boards around social justice reform, COVID concerns, and the wide range of emotions our young people and staff are experiencing.

It's easy to get bogged down by the constant barrage of news reports and social media posts, but at the end of the day, our organization must ensure that we're moving towards our True North – our youth. Our Club members are counting on us to lead by example and to support them as they navigate through an ever-changing world.

What we say, and most importantly, what we do, matters now more than ever before. To be clear, we stand in agreement with Boys & Girls Clubs across the country to condemn any acts of racism or discrimination. We advocate for all youth to have the same opportunities and encourage them to harness to power of their voice. We believe it is critical to speak up and take action. Black Lives Matter.

We recognize that we have work to do internally as well. We must provide opportunities for a diverse group of people to provide input and leadership at all levels in our organization from staffing to the board. We must identify and remove barriers that prevent access, opportunity, and advancement for marginalized, underserved and underrepresented groups. We must build bridges for peace, understanding and cultural competency.

As a starting point, we have gathered input from our staff through a series of listening sessions and surveys. Our board of directors are leading a task force on racial equity and inclusion. We are continuing to provide young people positive ways to express themselves while we promote hope and healing. We invite you to get involved and provide your input as we navigate through these times together. Our True North – our youth – thank you for your support.

With gratitude,
Dawn



Good Character & Citizenship

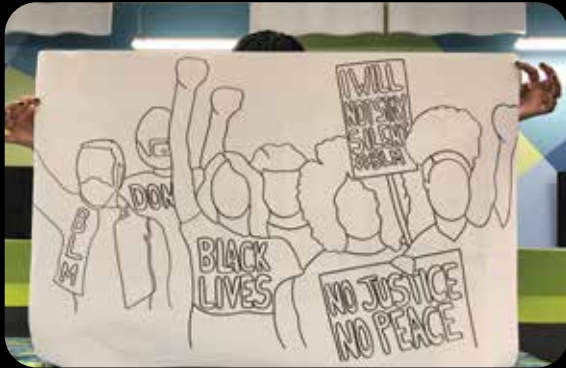
As part of The Travis Manion Foundation's **Character Does Matter** program, our board member and President of Veteran Air Conditioning, Kevin Henault, took some of our Club members on a field trip to Patriot Plaza on Presidents' Day. They learned about the history of our American flag and enjoyed the music of The Pops Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota.



Stay Connected

Power of Their Voices

We take a stand for the future of our community's children and teens. We condemn any act of racism or discrimination. We stand for safety, health, dignity and equitable opportunity. We advocate for youth and encourage young people to harness the power of their voice. Some of our Club members were inspired to express themselves through art and written word after an online national Black Youth Town Hall and discussions about Juneteenth.



◀ Daimyah - Age 14 ▶

BLACK LIVES ARE BEAUTIFUL
 BLACK LIVES MATTER
 EVERYBODY DESERVES TO BE HEARD
 EVERYBODY HAS A VOICE
 WE ALL DESERVE A CHANCE
 WE ARE ALL EQUAL



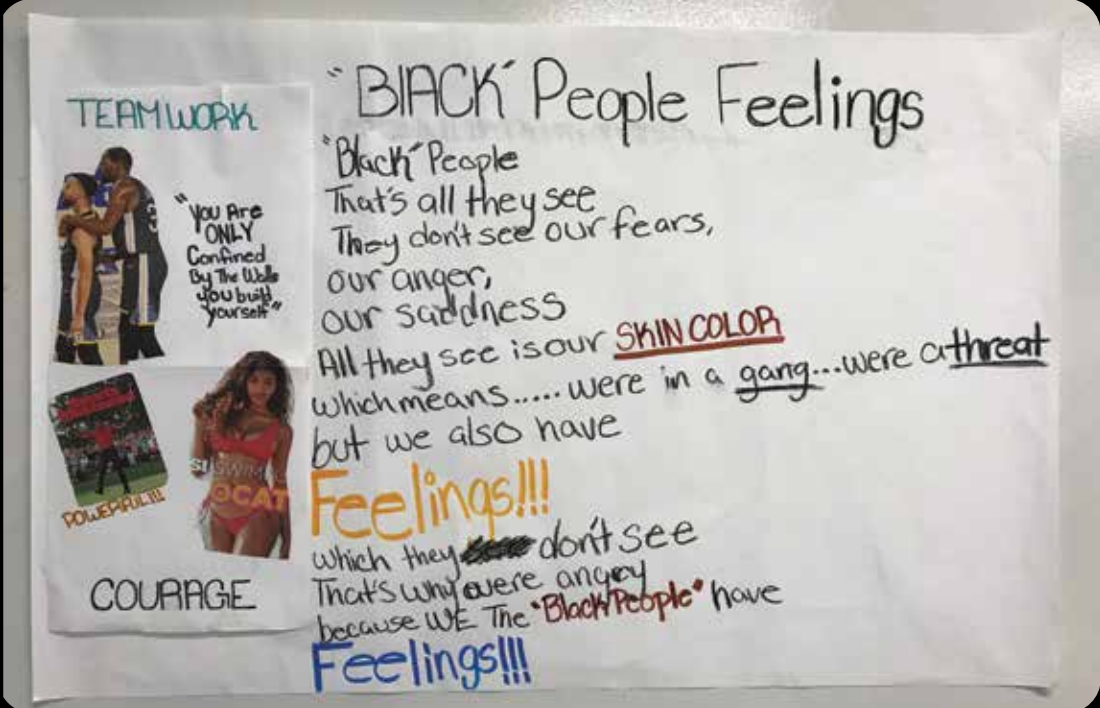
Tiyauna - Age 14 ▶

Black & Proud
 I am a black young woman
 And I am very proud to be one
 I wake up, I'm Black
 I go to sleep, I'm Black
 And I will not change that for anybody



▶ Anniyah - Age 12 ▶

▶ Layla - Age 14 ▶



**WASH
 YOUR
 HANDS**

DID YOU KNOW...

ABOUT THE CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES ARISING OUT OF THE CARES ACT?

The CARES Act tax changes go into effect beginning in the 2020 tax year. The following are some of the highlights concerning charitable giving.

1. Corporate charitable giving opportunities

For corporations, the CARES Act has increased the cap on deductibility of donations from 10% to 25% on gross income of the corporation. For food donations, the corporate cap has also been increased from 15% to 25%. This allows corporations to make an even bigger impact through their charitable giving, and a corporate gift during this time of need will help us maintain and grow our programs.

The old deduction rules apply to gifts to private foundations. The higher deduction does not apply to donations directly to a Donor Advised Fund (DAF).

2. Retirees

The new law affects some owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) by providing a temporary waiver of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). This waiver will allow IRA owners age 72 or older to keep funds in their IRAs and other qualified retirement plans. For individuals who had to take an RMD for tax year 2019 before the April 2020 deadline, that requirement has been waived for 2020.

For some, keeping the funds in their IRAs until the market rebounds might be the best option. For others, continuing to make tax-free charitable gifts directly from their IRAs may be preferable.

3. Individuals Who Itemize: (Estimated to be 10% of all tax-filers)

The CARES Act expands the limit on charitable contributions for individual/joint itemizers—increasing the amount that can be deducted from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% of gross income. This means itemizers can deduct more of their charitable cash contributions this year. Any excess can be carried forward for five (5) years.

4. Individuals who do not Itemize their Tax Returns: (Estimated to be 90% of all tax-filers)

The CARES Act allows for a \$300 above-the-line deduction for cash charitable contributions made to Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County for individual taxpayers who take the standard deduction or \$600 for married filing separately. The adjustment to income reduces the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), and thereby reduces their taxable income. Married Filing jointly is allowed only to deduct up to a total of \$300 according to The Joint Committee on Taxation from Congress.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Contributed by Michael Wood
Outcomes & Grants Development Director

Here are some highlights of grants* received since the beginning of the 3rd QTR of 2019:

- **Bishop Foundation** - \$6,100 to support Good Eats program at the DeSoto and Palmetto Clubs
 - **Boys & Girls Clubs of America** - \$1,500 to support Smart Girls in Action program at the DeSoto Club
 - **Deerbrook Charitable Trust** - \$378,000 to support capital improvements to the Palmetto Club
 - **Entre Nous** - \$1,000 to support Youth of the Year scholarships, professional attire and conference expenses
 - **Manatee County Children's Services Funds:**
 - **Great Futures** - \$610,000 for general support of Club operations for youth ages 5 – 12
 - **Teen Programs** - \$195,000 for general support of Club operations for teen members ages 13 – 17
 - **New College - Arts & Humanities** - \$1,800 to support Intern for Goals-Progress-Success (GPS) teen program
 - **Office of Justice Programs (OJP)** - \$22,885 to support youth mentoring for 29 pre-teen members at the DeSoto Club
 - **Parker Foundation** - \$6,100 to support Good Eats program at the DeSoto and Palmetto Clubs
 - **Service Club of Manatee County** - \$1,000 to support Schools + Community = Success Tutoring Program
 - **Taco Bell Foundation** - \$15,040 to support the Teen Goals-Progress-Success (GPS) program
 - **Tampa Bay Estuary Program** - \$2,325 to support Environmental Education through field trips with Around the Bend Nature Tours at the Palmetto Club
 - **United Way Suncoast** - \$45,000 to support the Summer Brain Gain program
 - **Walmart-Cortez (Store #1004)** - \$350 to support installation of pollinator gardens and improve landscape at the DeSoto and Palmetto Clubs
 - **Walmart-Ranch Lake Blvd (Store #5727)** - \$2,000 to support the Summer Brain Gain: Read! program
 - **Walmart-S.R. 64 East (Store #3474)** - \$2,000 to support the Summer Brain Gain: Read! program at the DeSoto and Palmetto Clubs
 - **Wilson Wood Foundation** - \$16,000 to support teen programs
- *List not all-inclusive

COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

Helping provide immediate and near-term relief efforts

Generous supporters contributed a total of \$259,000 in COVID-19 Relief funding to enable us to provide free childcare to essential healthcare workers and first responders, virtual Club programming and food for families in need.

- **Anonymous** - \$100,000
- **Anthem Foundation** - \$6,000
- **Bank of America** - \$20,000
- **BGCA Relief Grant** - \$20,000
- **Deerbrook Charitable Trust** - \$50,000
- **Manatee Community Foundation** - \$25,000
- **Mote Scientific Foundation** - \$10,000
- **T-Mobile** - \$3,000
- **United Way Suncoast** - \$25,000

Proud partner of



Thank you for a successful 2020 Giving Challenge during very challenging times!

\$101,971.98 RAISED!

— Phillip R. Banks - "Gratitude is my attitude!"

READY. SET. SUMMER!

No Club. No Problem.

BGC staff gave out Club Activity Packets weekly at Oneco and Daughtrey Elementary Schools, two of the food distribution sites, as well as the Palmetto Club. The packets included STEM, art and physical fitness activities. Each week, the kids returned with proof of their accomplishments and got to pick out their reward from the treasure chest. Plus, they received a new activity packet for the week. **It got a Thumbs Up!**

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, adjustments had to be made in order to provide a summer program for our Club members, like having to keep the attendance down to comply with CDC guidelines for groups. In addition, with schools being closed, we were unable to hold our summer program at our school locations, however, the Club at Daughtrey Elementary was able to hold their summer program at Visible Men Academy. The modified summer provided members with purposeful, physically distanced activities to stay active, learn and have fun.



Fishing



Swishing



Creating



Picnicking



Playing



Learning



Smiling

Youth of the Year

The annual Youth of the Year Celebration Dinner took place on February 25, 2020. The evening recognized our two Youth of the Year and five Junior Youth of the Year Finalists.

Three weeks prior, all of the finalists went through a judging process that decided who would be awarded the titles of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County (BGCMC) 2020-21 Youth of the Year and Junior Youth of the Year. The secret was held until the night of the Celebration Dinner. First, Hernando R. was announced as BGCMC's Junior Youth of the Year, then the night culminated with Sandra C-C being named BGCMC's 2020-21 Youth of the Year. Sandra went on to vie for the Florida Youth of the Year title, but did not move on to the regional competition.

Sandra, a Club member for 11 years, will be a senior this year and has future plans of attending college and becoming a surgical technician or pharmacist.



Sandra C-C (right) and Hernando R. (left) are the 2020-21 Youth and Junior Youth of the Year.



Youth of the Year Finalists at the judging ceremony (L-R): Judonn D. (Palmetto) and Sandra C-C (DeSoto)



Junior Youth of the Year Finalists at judging ceremony (L-R): Saralee P. (Daughtrey), X'Zyria S. (Palmetto), Ty T. (Oneco), Hernando R. (DeSoto) and Me'khia B. (Rogers Garden)

Celebrating Our Graduating Members

The pandemic may have thwarted our plans for an event to honor our graduating Club members and induct them as Boys & Girls Clubs Alumni, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm to celebrate their accomplishments.

Banners congratulating the Class of 2020 were placed at the DeSoto and Palmetto Clubs, and each graduating Club member was given a personalized gift box containing a gift card, portfolio, graduation cord and t-shirt to remind them that "ONCE A CLUB KID, ALWAYS A CLUB KID."



Our Teens Have A
97%
On-Time Graduation Rate!



BGC Roundup



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MANATEE COUNTY

P.O. Box 280
Bradenton, FL 34206

(941) 761-2582

www.bgcmantee.org

Roundup Q & A

with **Sandra C-C**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County's Youth of the Year

Sandra shared her thoughts of becoming Youth of the Year, COVID-19, discrimination and inequity, and encouragement for her peers and young Club members.

Q: The Club has been a big part of your life. What did it mean to you to be named BGCMC's Youth of the Year?

A: It means the world to me to have been named Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County's Youth of the Year. I have been looking forward to participating in the competition since I was in middle school. Being Youth of the Year is such a big accomplishment for a Club member. I have been coming to the Boys & Girls Club for almost 12 years. I've learned a lot about people, educational options for the future and things that adults need to know. Also, I looked up to my older brother, Nick, who was the Youth of the Year in 2017. I wanted to win, just like he did. Now, I'm proud to say that I accomplished that goal!

Q: So, you started 2020 with the second half of your junior year of high school ahead of you and a new title of BGCMC's YOY, then COVID-19 derailed "life as usual." What challenges did you face and what helped you cope with and adjust to the disruption and uncertainty?

A: Since the coronavirus hit us, it really threw me for a loop. Some of the challenges that I faced included the difficulty with online schooling. I never had to do any online classes before. Then suddenly, we had all of our classes switched to online, and I struggled in getting the hang of it. My grades started slipping, and that had never happened to me because I am an A student. Fortunately, with the help of my peers and mentors, I ended the school year with good grades. Another concern I felt was for my peers who didn't have the technology or supplies to do their work. I didn't feel good about it. I also worried about those who lost their jobs and couldn't feed themselves or their kids. I was glad to see that some local businesses were giving out food to those who needed it. The coronavirus really hurt us, but I know that we will get through it.

Q: The senseless death of George Floyd on Memorial Day sparked a demand for change that spread around the globe. What life lessons have you received as a Club member that you feel would serve humanity well in

helping to bring about equality, equity, liberty and justice for all?

A: The death of George Floyd was a horrible thing that happened because some people don't want to accept people. There is no reason why we shouldn't all be seen as equal. Unfortunately, people do get discriminated daily because of the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, and who they love. The death of George Floyd was very heart breaking, but also eye opening. Many people don't feel safe in their own neighborhood. That is not okay. The protests that are happening is the tipping point of such a long string of murders due to systemic racism. I think that we need to use our voices to demand change and demand that everyone be seen as equal.

Q: As Youth of the Year, as well as a Junior Staff, you are a leader to your peers and the younger Club members. What positive message would you like to share with them during these times of uncertainty?

A: I know this might sound cheesy, but things are going to get better. The things that are happening right now, although hurtful and aggravating, happen for a reason. If we all stand together and stand with each other in support, we will all be okay.



Club Family: Sandra with her proud brother, Nick (2017-18 Youth of the Year) at the 2020-21 Youth of the Year Celebration Dinner on 2/25/2020.