

BGC Roundup

The Official Newsletter of Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County

ONCE A CLUB KID

ALWAYS A CLUB KID

**COACH McCULLOCH:
A FORMER CLUB KID
DOING WHAT HE LOVES.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MANATEE COUNTY



Youth of the Year
JAYDEN D.



Community
Collaboration
WALL MURAL



BGCMC Day
SPRING TRAINING

STANHOPE & OPPORTUNITY

These are exciting times at Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. As we plan for the future needs of our community and our youth, we are often reminded of our Club members' ability to navigate through tough challenges with resiliency, hope and a desire to make a difference. Every child that walks through our doors brings their own unique personality, perspective, background and experience. The same goes for our staff, volunteers, board leaders, partners, and donors. What is amazing through all of these differences is the connectivity that empowers our youth to reach their full potential – meeting them right where they are and giving them space to discover the greatness within themselves.

If you ever need a boost of positivity and reassurance that our world will be in good hands, I encourage you to connect with our Clubs and learn more. Our members and staff will inspire you in ways you never imagined.

In the words of this year's Junior Youth of the Year winner, Dior, "I would like to thank everyone who plays a role in the success of the Boys & Girls Club because it helps me to feel confident and important, and gives me the feeling that I can do anything I put my mind to."

Yes, Dior – you can do anything you put your mind to and so much more! We are honored to walk alongside of you, and all of our Club members, in your journey towards your great future.

With appreciation,

Dawn Stanhope
President/CEO

Stay Connected



Dawn Stanhope and Club member, Stellie, at Boys & Girls Club Day at March 14th Pittsburgh Pirates Spring Training game.

2023 - 24 Youth of the Year - Jayden D.



What has it meant to you to be a Club member? It meant a lot to me because I learned a lot of valuable lessons and it helped make me the person I am today.

What are some of your most memorable experiences at the Club? The most memorable experience at the Club was making new connections and lifelong friendships.

As Youth of the Year, you are a leader and role model for younger Club members. What positive message would you like to share with our young Club members? To always remain humble, keep a positive mindset and don't let people tell you who you are, you define who you are.

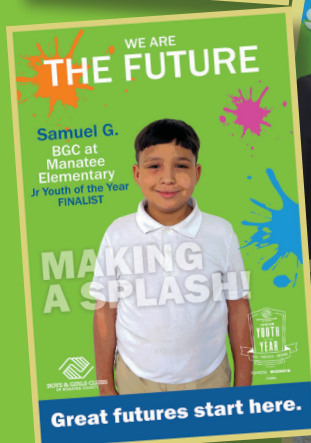
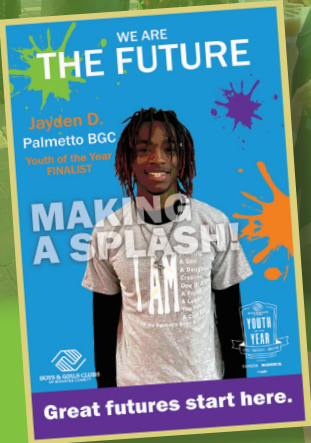
What are your plans after you graduate high school? I will be attending Saint Leo University and I plan to major in sports management with hopes of getting an internship at USF, as I want to learn the fundamentals of being a football coach.



2023 Youth of the Year Celebration Dinner

WE ARE THE FUTURE

On February 28th, we celebrated all of our Youth of the Year and Junior Youth of the Year Finalists at our annual Celebration Dinner held at the Bradenton Country Club. At the end of the event, Jayden D. was named Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County's 2023-24 Youth of the Year Representative and Dior A. as Junior Youth of the Year.



YOY Runner-Up
Skylar

Jeremiah

Laila

Jr. YOY Runners-Up
Samuel

Stefany

Willie

HELP MAKE GREAT FUTURES POSSIBLE

FLANZER MATCH PROGRAM



The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust matching program accepts and matches monthly donations to Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. Private Foundations or Public Charities can contribute to the Trust.

To make a secure matched gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County through the Flanzer Match Program scan the QR code on the right or go to:
<https://donate.flanzertrust.org/donations/boys-girls-club-manatee-county/>

Flanzer matched donations can range from \$5 to \$500 per household up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year.

**SCAN TO GIVE
A MATCHING GIFT**



BE A CHAMPION MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Your monthly investment immediately allows us to serve the kids of today... and have a plan to serve the kids of tomorrow. It's easy to join and you can change it at any time!

Enroll in our monthly giving program and join a special group of committed donors that helps kids on an ongoing basis! Together, we can help youth build great futures.

With your monthly donation, you can help inspire and empower youth to build a better future for themselves. Your donation allows us to continue to provide warm, nutritious meals. It allows us to give kids a safe place to study surrounded by trained staff and positive relationships. It allows us to give parents the chance to work knowing their children are safe and sound.



Why Give Monthly? Monthly lets you spread your investment throughout the year, easily budget for it and make an ongoing commitment to Boys & Girls Club kids.

There is a Champion inside each of us, ready to make a difference when others need our help. Be a Champion by becoming a monthly donor at any level.

You can become a member of the Leadership Circle by pledging to make a gift of \$1,500 for three years.

**Click the “Be A CHAMPION!” button on bgcmanatee.org
or Scan the QR Code!**

- \$125 (\$1,500/yr) provides a 1-year membership for a child/teen
- \$42 (\$500/yr) assists with homework help and programs to prevent learning loss
- \$34 (\$400/yr) supports programs focused on graduating with a plan beyond high school
- \$25 (\$300/yr) provides sporting equipment for healthy lifestyles
- \$10 (\$120/yr) provides art supplies for budding artists

**SCAN TO GIVE
A MONTHLY GIFT**



BLITZBALL STRIKES AGAIN!



THE MURAL PROJECT - A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

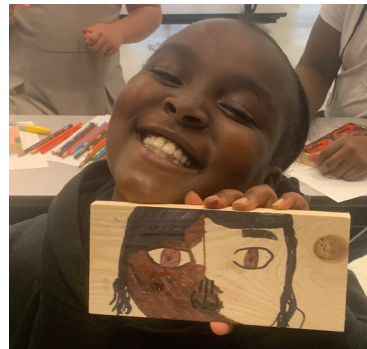
Starting with the generosity of project donors Joe and Gwen Ziomek and a call out to all mural artists in October of 2022, Art Center Sarasota's wall mural collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County was underway. By mid-December 2022, artist Annie Dong (Pictured Bottom Front Center), a student at New College of Florida, was announced as the muralist. Annie designed and outlined the mural and worked with our Club members to make it come to life. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on January 19, 2023. The mural is located on the west-facing wall of Art Center Sarasota's building and will be visible from The Bay's Mangrove Path for the next two years.

Fun Fact: Donor Joe Ziomek (Pictured below in an "Always A Club Kid" t-shirt) was Boy of the Year in 1958 at the Boys Club in Passaic, New Jersey.



A large group of students and coaches are posing for a group photo on a grassy field. In the center, a student is kneeling and holding a large trophy. The group consists of many students in blue and white athletic wear, some wearing medals, and several adults. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees in the distance.

**SMILES! ART AND HAPPINESS ARE
INTERTWINED... SEE FOR YOURSELF**



BGCMC DAY AT PIRATES SPRING TRAINING - 3/14/23



A group of diverse young students sitting on bleachers, smiling and posing for a photo. Some are wearing orange and blue athletic gear, while others are in casual clothing. A girl in the foreground is making a peace sign.

NATIONAL FINE ARTS EXHIBIT PROGRAM



In February, our Club members' artwork was on display in the lobby of the Manatee Performing Arts Center, where patrons voted for their favorites. On February 23, we had our Fine Arts Showcase and Awards Ceremony to celebrate all of our young artists and present awards to the top vote recipients. The 1st Place entries were sent to Boys & Girls Clubs regional competition.

GOOD CHARACTER

Club members made cards for Valentine's Day and blankets during Spring break for assisted living residents.



SAVE THE DATE - Monday, October 30, 2023



Reserve your spot for our 3rd Annual Keeping Kids Safe Golf Invitational at Ritz-Carlton Members Club. For more information on teams and sponsorships visit: www.bgcmanatee.org/events

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OF MANATEE COUNTY

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Staff Highlight

Coach Tom McCulloch



Tom McCulloch, our Sports and Recreation Manager, was the 1983-84 Boy of the Year for the Boys Club of Cicero in Illinois.

Tom McCulloch grew up in Cicero, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Tom's mother, raising a son and daughter on her own, realized Tom needed male role models in his life and registered him at the Boys Club of Cicero.

"I lived there everyday from 3:30 to 8 p.m., from 4th grade through high school," said Tom.

As a Club member, Tom had been nominated for Boy of the Year several times. Finally, in his junior year, he was named 1983-84 Boy of the Year for the Boys Club of Cicero. It was a proud moment in his Club Experience that he still cherishes today.

Once he graduated from high school and could no longer be a Club kid, Tom asked the Club for a job. It was then that Tom's next chapter with the Clubs started as a part time staff member while attending college. That's also when he started dating Cheryl, a friend from high school.

With a common interest in sports, Cheryl started to attend basketball games that Tom coached. From there, her involvement with the Club grew, as did Tom's responsibilities with the Club. Tom became a full time staff member and eventually, athletic director, then program director.

During the time Tom worked for the Boys Club, he married Cheryl and they had two children. After 8 years of mentoring kids at the Club, Tom made the difficult decision to leave

the Club in order to devote more time to raising his family. Cheryl and Tom still continued to go to Club events.

Fast forward to 2019, Tom and Cheryl moved to Florida. With an empty nest, an opportunity presented itself. Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County was looking for a Sports and Recreation Manager.

Tom thought, "Wow, this is something I really want to do. Come full circle and do something I really love."

We're grateful to have Tom (and Cheryl) on our team.

Fun Fact: Tom and Cheryl will be celebrating 30 years of marriage this year.



Coach Tom gives a lesson in the correct way to throw a shot put at the 2023 BGCMC Track Meet.