



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

Administrative Offices

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BIG and little **moments**

ON Dasher ON Dancer

The magic of the holiday season is coming to the Boys & Girls Club on December 14th. The Club's annual "On Dasher, On Dancer..." Holiday Party will bring together more than 200 children whose families are struggling financially and give them a holiday celebration to remember! Kids will have their picture taken with Santa, eat a meal together, sing carols, make holiday crafts, and (most kids' favorite moment of the night!) pick out their very own Christmas presents! Thank you to the Orange County Toy Collaborative, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mathnasium of Fountain Valley, the Today Show Toy Drive and Surf City Rotary Club of Huntington Beach for making this holiday season bright for kids in need. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or donate toys for the celebration, call 714-593-0753, ext. 109.

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley



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OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

Winter Quarterly Club News and Events

**Happy
HOLIDAYS**





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OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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Special Gifts

YOU can make a big difference this holiday season. How? Make a special gift to sponsor a child to attend the Boys & Girls Club. \$5,000 will help a mom with a newborn afford childcare for a whole year so she can go back to work. \$2,500 will sponsor a school age child for more than a year! \$500 will mean a whole summer of fun with friends at the Club for a child from a struggling family. \$100 will give a child about a month of safe, supervised afterschool care. \$50 will sponsor a scholarship for almost two weeks at the Club. Thanks to you, children will have a safe place to learn and play and parents will be able to go to work and provide for their kids. This is your moment to make a difference. It might be a little moment for you, but it will be a BIG moment for the family that you help.

To thank you for helping create "big moments" for families in need, the Boys & Girls Club has a special gift for you, too! There is a holiday ornament just for you inside the envelope enclosed inside your newsletter. We hope it will remind you of all the good that you do and all the children that you have helped by supporting the Boys & Girls Club.



Happy Holidays!



How to Give

There are many ways to give a gift that will change a child's life.

1. Use the enclosed blue envelope to make your donation.
2. Call 714-593-0753, ext. 109 to talk to our fundraising team and make a donation.
3. Text "GIVE 2944" to 80088 to make a \$10 donation to the Club through our partner GlobalGiving.org. \$10 will be added to your next phone bill and the phone company will pass the money on to the Club. If you would like to give more, you can text as many times as you would like.
4. Use your smart phone to scan this QR Code. It will take you directly to the Club's donation webpage. No smart phone? Not a problem! You can also visit us online at: <http://www.bgchv.com/how-to-help/donate/>

Thank you for your support! Don't forget to hang the enclosed ornament as a reminder of those children your gift has helped.



Breaking Down the Language Barrier

One thing that 7 year old Jeremias has learned at the Boys & Girls Club is that playing tag is the same in any language. Brand new to the Club, Jeremias speaks only Spanish, but is having the time of his life. He told Kingston Branch Unit Director Gricel Mendoza, "I love this place – I've never had this much fun, even when I lived in Mexico!" Gricel is one of several bilingual staff members who are available to help children and parents break down the language barrier. When she toured the family through the Club in October, Gricel pointed out each of the Spanish speaking staff to Jeremias and his sister Genesis to make sure that they knew they could communicate with the staff and get the help they need. Both children get help in the Club's education room, where one of our staff members works with them and helps translate to make sure they understand their homework assignments. Staff members aren't the only ones helping Jeremias and Genesis feel at home at the Boys & Girls Club. Both kids are making friends and Gricel says the kids in the

teen room do a lot to get Genesis involved in the Club. Newfound friendships and support from Club staff will help make the transition easier for Jeremias and Genesis as they work hard to develop their English language skills.

10 year old Betzabeth is a perfect example of the success that kids can achieve with the Club's help. When Betzabeth started at the Club, she was 5 years old and didn't speak English. Now, at 10, her English is perfect and she is doing great in school. Her family is now counting on the Club to help the other members of the family get ahead, too. Betzabeth's bubbly and funny little sister Monserrat is a 1st grader in the Club's afterschool program, where she gets help with homework, loves cooking classes, and most of all, loves being creative in the art room. One of the Club's staff told their dad Juan about our Twilight Education Project, a free program which helps English Language Learner families get the language skills and support they need to succeed in our community. Now, Juan attends Twilight's English as a Second Language classes for parents while both of his daughters participate in Twilight's academic support for school age kids.

At the Boys & Girls Club, our mission is to help all children, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential. Breaking down the language barrier is one way that our Club reaches out to the kids that need us most and gives them the support they need to succeed.



Gaining CONFIDENCE on the Court

Andrew was a shy little boy when he joined the Club's summer basketball league program this year. He was hesitant to ask questions and very nervous about doing drills in front of the other kids. His coach, Travis, talked to Andrew's mom and dad to see why Andrew was so nervous and what he could do to help bring Andrew out of his shell. Travis learned that Andrew had a really bad experience with a verbally abusive coach in another league and he was scared to play. His parents wanted to help him get over it and have fun in organized sports, so they brought him to the Boys & Girls Club. Travis gave Andrew all the encouragement and support he needed throughout the season. Thanks to Travis's coaching methods that give everyone the opportunity to play and to score, Andrew made his very first basket in a sports league game. Soon, instead of having to be forced by his parents to go to basketball practices and games, Andrew began to get excited about going. Toward the end of the season, Andrew approached Coach Travis and asked to talk to him. Andrew told Travis all the reasons that he liked having him as a coach and thanked him. Before the summer season was over, he had already signed up for the fall season and he continues to love being part of his team. Unit Director Ryan Brenes says, "Because of the positive coach and the positive environment, Andrew came out of his shy little shell. He's now playing because he loves to play and hang out with the other kids, not because his mom and dad are making him. His self esteem is going through the roof and he's having a great time this season."





BGCHV by the Numbers

- 1 person (YOU!) **can change a child's life** by supporting the Boys & Girls Club.
- About 1,200 kids attend one of our five Clubs each day.
- **8,000 kids** come to the Boys & Girls Club each year.
- 70% of Club kids are from low to moderate income families.
- **5 Club sites** throughout Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley offer preschool, before and after school programs, performing arts, sports and fitness programs.
- **30 schools** in four school districts are served by the Club.
- 12 buses bring kids to the Club.
- 400+ people volunteer at the Club each year.
- The Club's fees are up to **50% lower** than those of comparable childcare and youth program providers in our community thanks to your donations.
- Nearly 800 families get help from the Club's scholarship program each year, thanks to funds raised at our annual benefit and donations from supporters like you.
- 714-593-0753, ext. 109 is the number to call so you can get involved as a volunteer or make a donation today.

In her own words...

One of our community's leaders shared her family's story with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley, and we would like to share it with you so you can see what a difference the Club and your support make in the lives of our community's families.

"As an elected official in Huntington Beach for the last nine years, I have supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley. It was not until last year that I personally experienced the amazing service the Club does for this community.

If you had told me in May 2005 that my children would ever be able to enjoy all of the benefits that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley has to offer, I wouldn't have believed it. My son, Paul, was diagnosed at age 4 ½ with Aspergers Syndrome (high functioning autism) in February 2005. My daughter, Halen, was similarly diagnosed in May 2005 at age 3 ½. The diagnosis of both children was devastating to the family and my husband and I divorced two years later. The divorce rate in families wrestling with an autism diagnosis is 85 – 90%. In most families, the mother immediately begins researching how to help her children, and the father loses his future aspirations for his children and the present attention of his wife. Autism didn't break up our family, but it didn't help it either.

We were fortunate to be in the Fountain Valley School District and to have an amazing pediatrician who expedited the diagnosis. Of course, upon diagnosis, the real work began. Our family spent significant time and resources on treatment. The school district did as well. My children remained with in-home day care until May 2010. I had been hesitant to put them back into an external day-care program as their needs often require more attention than the other children and their behaviors can be disruptive to a group. In May 2010, the children's nanny went on medical leave to have her first child. The expectation was that the leave would be for the summer only. I selected the Boys and Girls Club for the summer as the children had friends there and I thought that would help the transition.

By July 2010, my children had acclimated so well to the environment of the Boys and Girls Club that I was able to let them remain in the program. We had some challenges but the staff at the Huntington Beach Branch is incredible and very well prepared to handle the unpredictable nature of autistic behaviors. My children participate in all aspects of the program, including art, computers, the playground and the teen room. They even enjoy karate and gymnastics at the Clubhouse Academy.

My family is blessed to have found the Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley. I recommend the Club to everyone I meet. My daughter is no longer considered "special needs" by the School District as her autism does not interfere with her education, and my son is well on his way to being the same. I thank the Club for helping us reach this amazing milestone."

Jennifer McGrath
City Attorney, City of Huntington Beach



BIG and little moments



Thanks to generous sponsors, auction item donors, volunteers and excited bidders!

The Club's 33rd Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction raised nearly \$370,000! These funds sponsor disadvantaged kids' participation in Boys & Girls Club scholarship programs so that no child is ever turned away. The event's sponsors, donors and winners are listed in the following pages. Thank you to all those who helped make this event a success!

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*We apologize for any
errors or omissions.*



AN HONORABLE Moment



The Club was proud to welcome members of the Marine Corps and retired Army Corporal Tibor Rubin to our Big & Little Moments Annual Benefit. Mr. Rubin is a Holocaust survivor who emigrated to the United States in 1948 and enlisted in the US Army in 1950 to fight in the Korean War. He survived three years as a prisoner of war and received the **Medal of Honor in 2005** for extraordinary heroism in the face of danger that helped save the lives of 40 fellow soldiers. The Boys & Girls Club is honored to count Mr. Rubin among our supporters and it was a very special moment of the evening when Mr. Rubin and the Marines in attendance received a standing ovation from the crowd.