



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY**

50 YEARS

**OF HELPING KIDS
REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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OAK VIEW BRANCH

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Huntington Beach, CA 92647

PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION BRANCH

15645 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

LEARNING CENTER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL

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Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ROBERT MAYER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL

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Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CLUBHOUSE ACADEMY

17565 Los Alamos Street
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Struggling Readers from the Oak View Branch Get on Track with KidzLit

84% of Kids Gain a Full Reading Level in Just 8 Weeks

Every summer, kids throughout the country lose an average of 3 months of reading skills over the long summer break. Not at the Boys & Girls Club! Here, kids aren't losing ground, they're gaining, thanks to the Club's KidzLit program.



In KidzLit, about 135 kids spent an hour each day this summer devoted to reading skills. The program started each day with kids reading engaging children's literature. Then, after they read the stories, the kids did fun activities that helped them connect the books to their own lives. Kids got to act out scenes from the books, write new endings for the stories, create artwork to illustrate the stories, and talk about the books together. The program made a huge difference.

Program Director Alejandra Morales says, "There was one child that stood out the most to me – a 3rd grader named Juan who tested at a 1st grade reading level at the start of the summer. When KidzLit started, he was shy when reading out loud, especially when he couldn't pronounce words. The staff encouraged him to sound out each letter, but he was

too embarrassed and would say 'I don't know.' As the days went by, I noticed he'd have his hand up to be the first one to read and he was reading louder and louder, with more confidence. Even if he pronounced the words wrong, he kept trying. When we did the post-tests, he was at the 3rd grade level, right where he should be. I'm really proud of him!"

Juan wasn't the only one getting on track. **This summer, 84% of the kids improved their reading by at least one grade**

level! That's especially important because more than half the kids started the summer reading below grade level. But by the end of summer, that number dropped to just 14%. 37 kids have stuck with the program for three summers in a row. Their results are outstanding! 62% were reading below grade level when they started 3 years ago. Today, 92% are reading at or above grade level!

The Club is committed to keeping this important program going for years to come because it changes children's lives for the better. But, we need your help to do it. The program's main funder has just pulled out of grantmaking in Southern California. That means support from community members like you is more important than ever before for KidzLit. If you'd like to help, you can use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today.



Summer Brain Gain Boosts Summer Learning

Hands-On Learning Stops the Summer Slide

Summer learning loss is a big challenge for kids, especially in subjects like science, math and reading. Low-income youth are most at-risk of losing those important skills during the summer because they don't have the same access to summer learning opportunities as their higher income peers. And summer learning loss can stack up over the years, so that low-income youth fall further and further behind.

This summer, the Club put a lot of emphasis on academic programs that help fight summer learning loss. One of those programs is called Summer Brain Gain. As you

“Not only did Brain Gain teach me educational facts, but also it taught me how to be a better person”

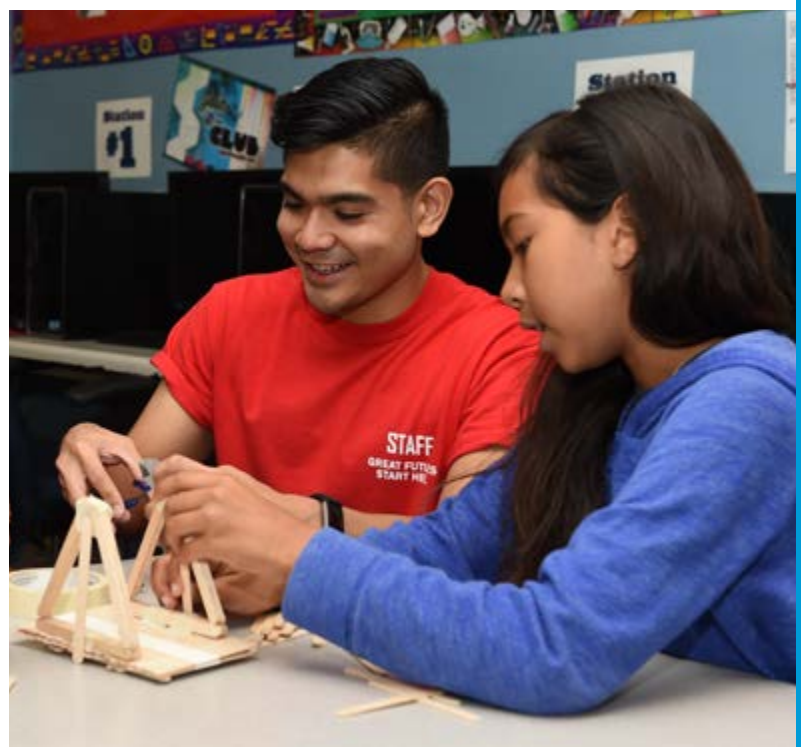
A Club member named Patrick talked about why he loved Brain Gain so much this summer. He says, “I think Brain Gain is a wonderful club for kids who enjoy conducting experiments and putting the scientific method to use. I enjoy making hypotheses because I am not always right. **I learn something new every day in Brain Gain and sometimes it may not just be about science** that kids learn, but also history. During

my time in Brain Gain I learned things about the history of China, ancient artifacts, and the animal kingdom. One of my favorite units in Brain Gain was when we learned about basic functions of the body and our senses.

“Not only did Brain Gain teach me educational facts, but also it taught me how to be a better person when it came to working with partners or making new friends, like when we worked together building a bridge with popsicle sticks or making musical instruments from straws and rubber bands. Every day was different and I think that's what makes it fun. I always looked forward to the next day's project. Brain Gain was a fun Club to be in and I definitely want to participate again next summer.”



might guess from the name, the program is designed to help kids work their mental muscles and not just avoid summer learning loss, but make learning gains. Led by staff at the Club, kids move through one-week modules that have fun, themed activities that are aligned with common core standards. Each module has a project-based learning approach so that kids can get hands-on with what they are learning and work together to create a final project or production.



No Club Kids Go Hungry Thanks to Chef Bruno Serato

Chef Serato's Caterina's Club Brings a Daily Hot Pasta Meal to Each School Age Club

For the last several years, Orange County has been ranked among the top 10 communities in the nation for the high rate of childhood food insecurity. Recognizing how important it is for children to know that they can count on getting enough to eat each day, the Club partners with several community groups to make sure that the kids are fed when they come to the Club.

The Club is excited to announce its newest partnership with Chef Bruno Serato of the Anaheim White House restaurant. Chef Serato runs a program called Caterina's Club, named after his mother, that feeds at-risk youth throughout the Los Angeles and Orange County areas. **Caterina's Club is now bringing hot pasta meals for about 500 children every single day** in the Club's after school programs.

Chef Serato launched Caterina's Club in 2005 after Bruno and his mother Caterina visited a local Boys & Girls Club. There, they saw a 6-year-old eating a bag of potato chips and when Caterina learned that was all he had for dinner, she instructed her son to head back to the restaurant and feed the children pasta. He's been feeding kids in need ever since.



Chef Serato lives in Huntington Beach and is thrilled to be able to help kids in his hometown. Though people often think of Huntington Beach and all of Orange County as especially affluent communities, this area has wealth and poverty living side by side. There are still children going to bed hungry every night because their families can't afford to buy groceries. But now, no child at the Boys & Girls Club has to go hungry.



Fun Summer of Hands-On Learning at the Club

Summer Programming Brings Kids' Interests to Life

This summer, the Club brought the fun to the kids – sometimes all the way from New York City! All summer long, the Club had fun theme weeks. Whether it was Lego YOUNiverse, Space Station Vacation, Project FUNway or any of the other themes happening this summer, the Club found ways to bring fun and learning into children's every day activities at the Club.

Unit Director Gricel Voigt says, "We're a recreation program, so fun is at the heart of everything that we do. We're well rounded. We can have the arts, we can have the science, we can have the creativity, and it's all just based on what the kids love. This summer was no exception. **We built our programming around things that kids love, like outer space, art projects, animals and so many other things. Then we found ways to take it to the next level so that those interests really become opportunities for enrichment and learning.**"

Animal lovers didn't just get to see animals in the pages of a book or on a computer screen. Instead, they had a visit from the Santa Ana Zoo where kids got to see animals in person and even touch a boa constrictor! Kids who are into the arts and fashion got to make their own clothes "Project Runway" style by upcycling things that might otherwise have been thrown away. And, thanks to technology, distance was nothing to worry about when bringing the fun to the Club.

The kids got to tour the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum in New York City on a Skype video call with a museum educator who taught the kids about space and showed them some of the museum's space themed exhibits.



Not only were exciting things happening at the Club every day, kids were going on adventures around Orange County every day, too. A fun field trip or special event was planned for every single day of summer. One of the most thrilling for the kids was a trip to Disneyland for 80 Oak View Branch members, sponsored in part by the artists at the Tattoo

Gallery in Huntington Beach. It made them some of the happiest kids on earth to get to go to "the happiest place on earth."

With so much going on at the Club, it's no surprise that there were record breaking numbers of kids signed up for the summer program. The Club is continuing that momentum and you'll hear more about great school year programming in our next newsletter!



Ed Arnold to Be Named “Champion of Youth”

Celebrating 50 Years of Volunteer Service

Each year, at the Boys & Girls Club’s Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction, the Club honors one special individual as the “Champion of Youth.” This person is chosen for making a contribution that changes the lives of generations of children. There’s no one more deserving of such an award than this year’s honoree, who has been involved with the Boys & Girls Club for all of the Club’s 50 years. He has truly made a difference to generations of our community’s youth. His name is Ed Arnold.

Ed grew up as a Club kid himself, and he knew what a difference it had made in his life. Ed says, “I didn’t have a dad around. My mother and father were divorced when I was just a youngster. But I knew that I could go to the Boys Club and that to me was very special. I had people that cared about me.” The Club gave him

adults who cared about him and were good role



models. The Club helped him do better in school. The Club helped him learn to be part of a team. And, the Club taught him about giving back to the community.

That lesson about giving back stuck with him for his entire life. Back in 1967, he knew that he had to do

something for our community’s kids. So he did. **He became one of the founding board members of the Boys Club of Fountain Valley. He says, “And then as my career grew, I knew that I had to stay involved because it was about the kids.”**

Ed has chaired the Club’s Fundraising Committee for decades. If you’ve ever sat in a meeting with him or been asked by him to support the Annual Benefit, you have probably heard him say these words: **“It’s for the kids.”** That gentle reminder about the reason why people get involved with the Club in the first place has helped countless volunteers and community members remember what’s most important – the kids.

Ed’s focus on keeping that mission in mind has helped the Club’s team of volunteers and staff build up the **GREAT FUTURES START HERE** Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction to an event that raises nearly \$500,000 each year. Those funds support the Club’s free programs, scholarships, and allow the Club to subsidize every child by keeping fees at less than half the average cost of after school programs in Orange County.

Ed remembers, “I think the key was when we started spreading and getting more volunteers involved and we grew from there. We started very small and I look at us today as the finest Boys & Girls Club in the entire country.”

In the last few years, the Club has been named #1 in the nation for its education programming, arts programming, and more by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Thanks to Ed Arnold, that determination to give the kids the very best has been with the Club since its earliest days. The Club is so grateful to Ed for remaining steadfast in his commitment to the kids and the Boys & Girls Club. The Club is proud to honor him as Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley’s 50th Anniversary “Champion of Youth.”

The Club’s GREAT FUTURES START HERE Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction will be held on October 21, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Huntington Beach. If you’d like to attend to help honor Ed Arnold and join in celebrating 50 years of making a difference to local children, please visit bgchv.com/greatfutures to register.

You Can Leave a Lasting Legacy

Change Children's Lives for Years to Come with a Gift to the Club's New Endowment Fund

In honor of the Club's 50th Anniversary, the Club has launched a new endowment campaign called "Celebrating Our Past, Securing Our Future." You can be a leader and make a big difference to kids for generations to come by making an endowment gift.


you want your donation designated. If you'd like to learn more about the endowment, call Laura at 714-309-4962 or email laura@bgchv.com. Every gift will make a difference to kids today and in the future.



As you know, the Club is a financially stable 50 year old institution that operates on a balanced budget. However, even the most stable institutions need a safety net. Your gift will ensure that the Club can remain stable in times of unforeseeable challenges, whether large or small, such as a change in the economy that negatively affects charitable giving or a counted on local funding source changing its giving focus. Your gift will help the organization stay competitive by offering top quality programming in outstanding facilities, run by exceptional staff. And, your gift will allow the Club to pursue opportunities for growth that it might not otherwise be able to take advantage of. With your support, the Club will continue to meet our community's growing needs for generations to come.

How can you help? You can make a gift to the Club's endowment today! Use the enclosed yellow envelope to make your gift and write in "Endowment" for how



Celebrating Our Past  Securing Our Future

If you'd like to make a significant commitment to securing the Club's future, you should think about joining our new group, Club 50. In honor of the Club's 50th Anniversary, community members like you are committing \$50,000 or more to the Club's endowment. These gifts can be pledged over a period of time or given all at once with gifts of cash, stock or property. As a Club 50 member, you'll get special benefits, like a naming opportunity, donor recognition at our Kingston Technology Family Campus, and the opportunity to participate in Club 50 events to share your insights and ideas with the Club's leadership. Ready to learn more? Call Tanya at (714) 899-5900, ext. 1.

Club Member Gains National Attention in #BGCmade Contest

Sydney Horner's Video Wins \$1,000 for the Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Alumni and Friends Association invited the whole country to submit videos telling the story of how the Boys & Girls Club helped make them who they are today in a contest called #BGCmade. Teen Club member Sydney Horner shared her story in a moving video that earned thousands of votes, earning her 3rd place in the contest. By placing in the top three, she earned a \$1,000 grant for the Club that will be used to help replace the dance floor at the ClubHouse Academy, where Sydney teaches dance classes for some of the Club's younger members. You can watch her video at BGCA.org/BGCmade or read the amazing story that she shared right here:



"9 years ago, I stepped into the bright blue doors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley, unaware of the incredible journey I was about to embark on. As that young child at age 8, I was afraid of being myself and from as long as I could remember I'd been rendered silent by a social anxiety disorder called selective mutism. This hindered my ability to speak in social situations outside of my home. At home, I was a vibrant, talkative child who loved to sing and dance. But, in public, I became expressionless, silent, and anxious.

"This all changed when I joined the arts programs at the Club. When I entered the Club, I immediately felt a sense of safety and excitement. I found an outlet through the theatre program at the Club where I could share my voice in the form of a character. With time and the safe, loving, caring environment that the Club offered me, I found the light amidst the darkness. I started sharing and showing my crazy, zany true self. I was no longer quiet and I eventually became

as vibrant as I had been at home. I made friends and the Club offered an amazing support system through some of my life's toughest battles when my father was diagnosed with cancer and my family faced financial hardships.

"Today, the Club continues to change my life. The Club has offered me opportunities to become a leader. I have been allowed to teach and direct some of the younger children in the Club's arts programs which has helped me discover my aspirations for the future. My life goal is now to teach and give back just a portion of what the Boys & Girls Club has given me.

"I've also been given the opportunity to share my story at some of the Club's

events such as their annual auction and fundraiser. I have been awarded the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Scholarship offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America that supports my efforts by funding classes that help me strengthen my skills in the arts.

"I know for certain that I would not be who I am today without the Club. In these past 9 years, I have changed from a child fearful of never being able to communicate with others and live to her full potential to a young woman who is confident, unafraid, and ready to enter into a great future with the amazing potential the Club has given me. I am 100% Boys & Girls Club made."

The Club is so proud of Sydney for all that she has accomplished! If you would like to make a difference to more kids like Sydney who are #BGCmade, you can support the Club's arts programs or help with the cost of the new dance floor. Please use the enclosed yellow envelope to make your gift today!