



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

50
1967-2017

YEARS OF HELPING
KIDS REACH THEIR
FULL POTENTIAL



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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KINGSTON BRANCH

16582 Brookhurst Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

HUNTINGTON BEACH BRANCH

2309 Delaware Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

OAK VIEW BRANCH

17261 Oak Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION BRANCH

15645 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

LEARNING CENTER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL

17565 Los Alamos Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ROBERT MAYER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL

15744 Golden West Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CLUBHOUSE ACADEMY

17565 Los Alamos Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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A Heartfelt Thank You from One of Our Club Members

You've Changed Giselle's Life for the Better

One of our Club members, Giselle, spoke at Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley's annual benefit about how the Club and supporters like you have changed her life by offering free programs at the Club's Oak View Branch. The Oak View Branch serves youth from a one square mile community in Huntington Beach where 10,000 people live in poverty. In Oak View, gangs are all around.

For many children, gangs feel like the only option when kids are looking for safety, security, and a sense of family. But, that sense of belonging comes at a tremendous cost. We hear from kids at the Club that their family members who are in gangs don't want that life for their children, their younger brothers and sisters, their cousins. They want a better life for their young family members. **They encourage the kids to come to the Boys & Girls Club because it's a safe place where kids can learn, play, and feel like**

they belong. The Club becomes the kids' second home and their second family.

Giselle is one of those kids. **One of her relatives who is in a gang told her, "I want more than this life for you. You need to go to the Boys & Girls Club. It's safe there and they'll help you."** She took that advice and it changed her life.

In case you missed it at the event, here is the heartfelt thank you that she'd like to say to you. "My name is Giselle, I am seventeen years old and a senior at Ocean View High School. I was born and raised in the Oak View Community in Huntington Beach. My mother is a single parent raising three kids on her own. My dad left when I was five years old, and the four of us have gone through a lot.

Around the time my father left, Oak View had an increase of gang members around the community. Everywhere you went,



you would see a gang's name tagged up on the side of an apartment. Police would be patrolling the area two or three times a day. It was a 'normal' thing in the Oak View community.

Before the Boys and Girls Club opened, a few other after-school programs came and went at the Oak View Community Center, but they weren't meaningful to me. Then, in 2012, the Boys & Girls Club came and opened the Oak View Branch. I had no idea how much impact they would have on me and the Oak View community.

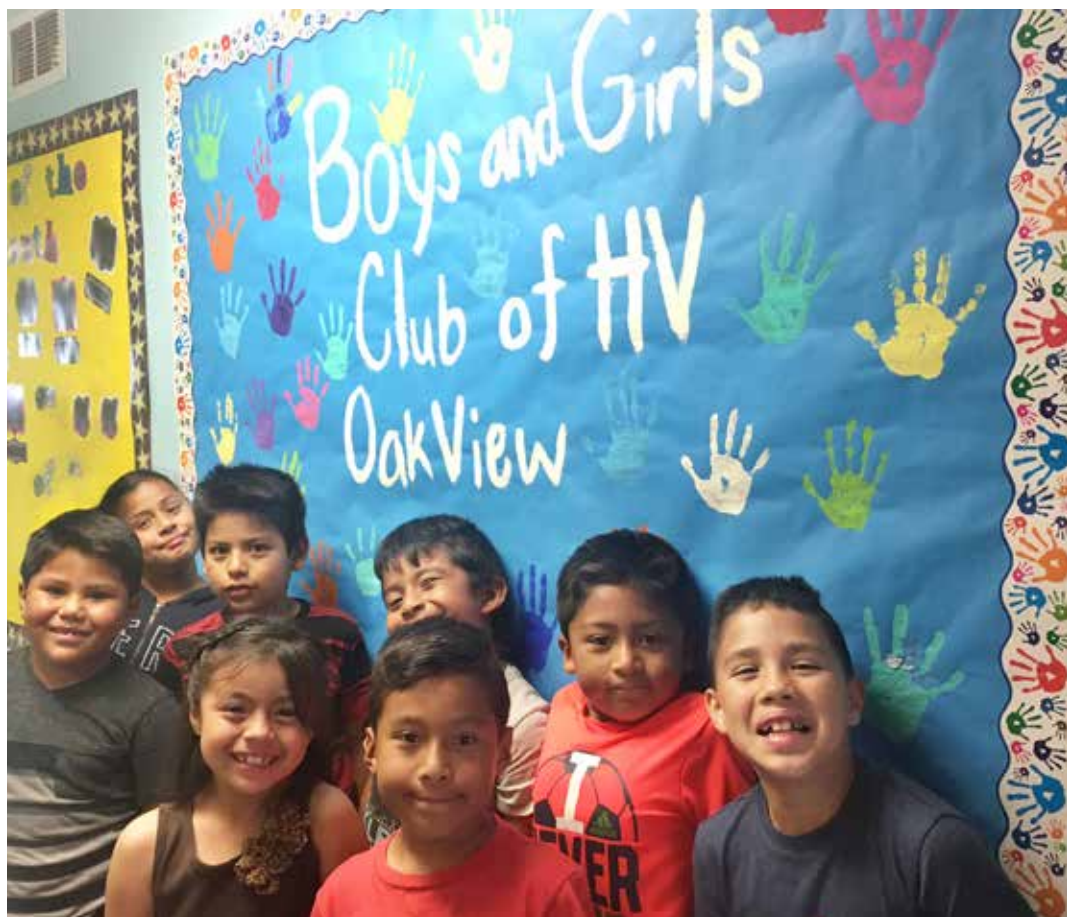
Joining the Boys and Girls Club has changed my life for the better. They helped the community become better. Since the Club opened, gang members that would hang around the community center slowly but surely started to leave. When the Club staff in their bright red uniform shirts are around, I feel safe. The word on the street is that you don't mess with the 'red shirts' because some of the gangsters are hoping for something better for the kids. They want us to have a safe place and a better chance than they had. I'm so happy with the change the Club has created. They brought in safety that wasn't there before and positive energy.

The Boys & Girls Club shaped me into the person I am today, responsible, determined, and, most importantly, they helped me believe in myself. Before the program opened, I never thought of attending college, but **next fall I will be the first in my family to go to college.**

If the Boys & Girls Club never opened their doors, I would have thought there was no future for me outside the Oak View community. The Club taught me to work hard and that there is more beyond the boundaries of Oak View. **I'm proud to tell you that now I'm a junior staff member – one of the 'red shirts.'** I get to help other kids feel safe and see the possibilities in their life.

I want to give a huge thank you to everyone from the Boys & Girls Club who had an impact on my life. I would have never have come so far without their guidance and support."

As one of the Club's supporters, that "huge thank you" is just for you. You were there for Giselle when she needed you. You helped bring safety to her community. You gave her role models and guidance to help her dream of big things for her future. You are teaching her to work hard to make those dreams come true. Your support makes a big difference. Thank you!



Will you help another child like Giselle and open the door to their great future?

\$250 sponsors a child for one whole school year at the Oak View Branch.

\$25 sponsors a child for a month.

Whatever the size of your gift, it will have a life-changing impact on a child who needs the Club in their life.

You Can Give Kids in Need a Special Holiday

Support the Club's "On Dasher, On Dancer" Holiday Party

Want to give a child in need a special holiday this year? Team up with the Boys & Girls Club for the annual "On Dasher, On Dancer" holiday party and give the Club's most at-risk members an evening to remember. Kids will have the chance to meet Santa and have their picture taken, pick out their own special toy, make holiday crafts, eat holiday treats, sing carols, and celebrate the magic of the season! Here's how you can help:

- **Donate new, unwrapped toys** at the front office of any of our branches by December 9.



- Call 714-899-5900 ext. 206 to sign up to **volunteer at one of our two parties** on December 19 and December 20.
- **Make a financial contribution** in the enclosed yellow envelope to help with the cost of the holiday parties.

This year, Toys for Tots has told us they are expecting to be able to give the Club about 200 fewer toys than last year. Will you help fill that gap so that every child gets a special gift at the holidays? You might ask friends to bring a toy to a holiday get together or put a toy collection box in your office and encourage your coworkers to donate. Even dropping off a single toy at one of our branches will brighten a child's holiday!

One of the Club's Program Directors, Diana Kacic, comments, "The holiday parties are an amazing thing for the kids in our program because a lot of them don't receive toys from their families for the holidays. They just can't afford it. It's so special to see the kids light up when they get to choose a gift! One of the things that stood out to me last year was that a lot of the kids were thinking of their little brothers and sisters, choosing a gift for them instead of for themselves. When we'd see that, we'd try to make it work so everyone got a gift. But, just seeing their generosity and how they are thinking of everyone else before themselves even when they don't have much at all, it really does warm the heart."

A Thank You Gift – Just for You!

We've enclosed a special gift, just for you, to say thank you for all you do for kids and families in our community. This year, you've "filled our stocking" with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. **We can't thank you enough for helping the Boys & Girls Club give families the support they need.** The enclosed holiday stocking ornament is a gift to thank you for making such a big difference to all the kids and families in our community that depend on the Boys & Girls Club. We hope you will hang this ornament in your home as a reminder of all the boys and girls you have helped this year. Thank you!



Your Holiday Gift to the Scholarship Program Changes Lives for the Better

You Can Help Families Move Beyond Poverty

With help from donors like you, the Club gives scholarships to more than 850 kids in need so that every family pays what they can afford, even if that's nothing at all. We'd like to share a comment from one of the hard-working parents whose family is part of the scholarship program so you can see what a difference your support of the scholarship program makes.

"I am a single father of two children. I take the kids to school at 8 am, go to class myself and then work in the afternoon. Without the Club's scholarship program, I would have to work less and go to school less, leaving my family and I to worry about how we can afford food for the night. It's been all I can do to keep afloat and assistance from the Club is helping move us beyond the poverty we are stuck in." – Brandon, Fountain Valley.

Instead of being a "handout," the Club's scholarship program gives families a hand up at a time in their lives when they need it most. Thanks to you, Brandon and other moms and dads like him are able to take the steps they need to move their families out of poverty by working, going back to school and trying to get ahead, all while their kids are participating in life-changing programs at the Club.

Would you like to help a family like Brandon's? This holiday season, please consider adding the Boys & Girls Club's scholarship program to your gift list. You can use the enclosed yellow envelope and check the box designating your gift for the scholarship program. Moving families "beyond the poverty they are stuck in" is one of the most special gifts you could give this holiday season!

Club Kids Get New Clothes Thanks to "Operation School Bell"

Assistance League HB Outfits 212 Kids with Winter Clothes

Assistance League of Huntington Beach took 212 children from the Boys & Girls Club on a shopping spree at Target through their "Operation School Bell" program, which aims to make sure kids have all the clothing essentials they need for school. Bused from the Club to Target, each child got to shop for about \$100 worth of coats, shoes, pants, shirts, and any other clothes that they needed to get ready for the cooler winter weather, all paid for by Assistance League. With help from parents, Boys & Girls Club board members including Fire Chief David Segura, Police Chief Rob Handy and many volunteers from the Assistance League who all acted as personal shoppers, the kids got their perfect outfits in just the right sizes. This event not only gave the kids much needed school clothes, but a big boost in confidence that comes from knowing they have a wardrobe filled with new clothes that are just their size and style. Thank you, Assistance League of Huntington Beach!



The Club Joins in National Movements for Children's Education and Recreation

Club Preschoolers Become World Record Readers

What do 2 million kids around the world have in common with our preschoolers? They are all "World Record Readers." This October, our preschools joined in the "Read for the Record" event where children, educators, and parents around the world all read the same book on the same day to set a world record for the world's largest shared reading experience.



Volunteers from local businesses came in to help read "Quackers" by Liz Wong to the kids, adding extra fun to this special event that helps encourage early literacy. Preschool Director Sami Hour comments, "We've been part of the 'Read for the Record' event for almost all 10 years that it has been running and it is so fun to talk to the kids about being 'World Record Holders.' They feel special and it's a neat way to make them feel like story time is important and that message gets home to parents, too, encouraging moms and dads to make time to read with their kids."

After School Programs Celebrate "Lights On After School"

On October 25, 2017, the Club joined in the "Lights on After School" nationwide celebration of after school programs. This annual event is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the amazing impact that after school programs have on our communities. Each of our Clubs celebrated the day by encouraging kids to try new things and celebrating kids' achievements. Our Pacific Life Foundation Branch focused on arts activities. Kids made tissue paper collages, crayon sculptures, chalk art outside, water colors on canvas, flowers made of fruit, flower mosaics and more. At our Oak View Branch, the kids had a great time with a kids vs. staff soccer game, STEM challenges, and special recognition for their academic efforts.



The Pacific Life Foundation Branch's Unit Director Grisel Voigt comments, "At the Club, we think of after school programs as an important partner for schools and parents. We all work together in helping kids get on the path to success. To celebrate that with Lights On Afterschool this year, we had fun showcasing how our after school programs get kids to try new things, push themselves academically, and use their creativity, all while helping kids have fun!"

Community Raises \$510,000 for the Kids

Your Record-Breaking Support Helps Reach More Kids Than Ever

The Club asked you and all of our community to help make our 50th year our best year by helping us reach more kids than ever before. You came through in a big way! **This year, the Club reached a record breaking \$510,000 raised at the “Great Futures Start Here” Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction.**

The Club was proud to honor Ed Arnold as the “Champion of Youth” this year, celebrating his lifetime of volunteer service. As a founding board member 50 years ago and our annual fundraising committee chair today, he has been with the Club every step of the way, tirelessly working to give the kids in our community opportunities to play, learn, and grow.

As Ed so often says, “It’s all for the kids.” This event was much more than just a fun 50th birthday party for the Club. This annual fundraiser helps support these important projects for the kids in our community:

- Free afterschool and summer programs for children in Huntington Beach’s impoverished Oak View community.
- Free evening homework help, tutoring, and preschool instruction for kids and ESL classes for parents in the Twilight Education Project for low-income English Language Learner families.
- Subsidizing every child’s participation in Boys & Girls Club programs and keeping fees at less than half the cost of the County average for after school programs.

- Scholarships for low-income families, so that kids from all backgrounds can come to the Club.

The “Great Futures Start Here” Annual Benefit is a vital part of the Club’s fundraising plan, bringing in about 40% of the \$1.2 million needed to support the Club’s free and low-cost programs each year. The Club is so grateful that more than 650 community members came together



on this special night to dedicate their time and money to making sure that the kids in our community have the Boys & Girls Club in their lives.

If you missed the event and would still like to help give the gift of the Boys & Girls Club to a child in need this holiday season, please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today! Every dollar makes a difference.



New Digital Arts Programs at the Huntington Beach Branch

Kids Get Creative Using the Latest Technology

Thanks to a generous grant from the Brenden Mann Foundation, the kids at the Huntington Beach Branch now have the opportunity to learn to use the same

is thrilled to be able to give kids “real world” tech experience and a new outlet for their creativity at the same time.



Unit Director Tim Nolan says, “At the Club, we’re always trying to prepare the kids for their future. Being able to get kids, especially our teens and pre-teens, **using the programs that people are using in the workforce today is fantastic. It helps them explore options for future careers and can open kids up to a whole world of job opportunities** that they might not have known about otherwise. Best of all, we make learning fun. So, even though

digital arts technology used by the professionals. The Club is now offering weekly lessons in using the Adobe Creative Cloud suite of programs. That includes apps like PhotoShop, Illustrator and InDesign for graphic design, DreamWeaver and Muse for web design, and many more programs. Throughout the year, kids now have the opportunity to learn how to do photo editing, film making, music recording and editing, and graphic design. The kids are excited about these new programs and the Club



kids are using complex programs, we’re working at their level. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, the kids are learning at their own pace and feeling proud of all they can accomplish.”

Shopping for a new car this winter? Consider a SUBARU!

McKenna Subaru in Huntington Beach will donate \$350 for every car sold during their “Share the Love” event when you designate Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley as your chosen charity.



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