Boys Girls Clubs of HUNTINGTON VALLEY



Thousands of lives transformed.



Thousands more in need!



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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

LEARNING CENTER CHILD DEVELOPMENT **PRESCHOOL**

17565 Los Alamos Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ROBERT MAYER CHILD DEVELOPMENT **PRESCHOOL**

15744 Goldenwest Street Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CLUBHOUSE ACADEMY

Fountain Valley, CA 92708 714-593-0753

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Member Wins **Graphic Design Competition**

At the Boys & Girls Club, we add "teaching moments" to everything we do. That means that while kids are having fun, they're also learning something. This spring, the kids learned to mix art and technology into fun and creative projects for Boys & Girls Clubs of America's annual Digital Arts

for them to one day enter the workforce and have successful careers.

This year, our Club was proud to host Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Digital Arts Festival for the Pacific Region. Members who live in five western states submitted their artwork to the

> contest. More than 20 arts professionals volunteered their time as judges. These included musicians, photographers, graphic designers, animators, game designers, and TV news staff. Graphic design judge Chris Gallegos described the children's work as "inspiring and promising."

12-year-old Huntington Beach Branch member Kylie Martinson wowed the judges with her graphic design entry. She won first place in the 10-12 year old division! In the graphic design contest, youth were asked to create a call-to-action poster. The goal was to encourage

respect, diversity and nonviolent solutions to conflict. Kylie's poster, Peace in Our Hands, showcases her creativity and the tech skills she learned at our Club. Kylie's creation went on to compete at the national level. Unit Director Tim Nolan says, "We are so proud of Kylie! We work hard to create a safe, fun environment where kids can explore their interests. It's exciting to see our members develop their talents and get recognized for their work."



can mean a lot of things. For this national contest, kids can create graphic designs, photography, music, short films, video games and lots more.

To participate in the contest, kids use the Club's technology labs to learn the latest in digital arts software. Access to technology in the Club's computer labs is especially important for hundreds of kids in our programs who don't have home computers. Thanks to the Club's technology labs, lower income kids are able to stay on par with their more affluent peers. They can build the technology skills that will be needed

Oak View Youth Bring Together Science & Art in MUZEO's TrashArt Challenge

The kids at our Oak View Branch combined art, technology, science, and more by participating in MUZEO's TrashARTist Challenge. In this annual contest, Orange County youth learn about zero-waste recycling in a fun way. They turn trash into art! Our kids started by learning about conservation and sustainability. Looking around their own community, they decided they wanted to fix its litter problem. They also wanted to celebrate one of their favorite cultural traditions. Put these things together and the kids had the great idea to build a giant 5' piñata.

The kids' hard work paid off. Their piñata won 2nd Place in the TrashARTist Challenge's 3rd-5th Grade category! Want to see this cool art piece in person? You can! The piñata is now being featured in the TrashARTist Challenge "Winner's Circle." To see it, visit MUZEO's exhibit Transcending Trash: The Art of Upcycling, on display all summer long. MUZEO is located at 241 S. Anaheim Blvd. in Anaheim. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. See muzeo.org for details.



Members collected cardboard, chip bags, and newspaper for months to create their masterpiece! The kids had a great time putting the piñata together. And, they learned a lot, too. Kids used geometry skills to determine the best ratios and measurements for their design. Volunteer guest speakers even helped the kids discover careers in architecture and urban planning. And, the kids learned a lot about working as a team.



Twilight Education Project Helps Unemployed Mom Get a Full-Time Job

Meet Nancy Flores. Nancy has been coming to the Boys & Girls Clubs' Twilight Education Project for the past five years. In this program for English Language Learner families, she and her whole family are learning together. They are getting the skills they need to open the door to a great future. Through Twilight, Nancy takes English as a Second Language classes. And, her kids get quality preschool instruction at the Club's oncampus preschool. When they get older, they can get homework help and tutoring in Twilight, too.



When Nancy first came to the program, she spoke very little English. She started learning the basics in the program's Level 1 classroom. This year, when Twilight opened a Level 3 classroom for advanced students, Nancy was ready to move up. With the extra help and attention she got in the advanced class, Nancy made big strides in her learning. In fact, her greatly improved language skills enabled her to get a full-time job. Nancy now works as a cashier and hostess in a restaurant. Everything she does at work is in English. She says she wouldn't have been able to get the job without all that she's learned at Twilight.

Nancy has two children who attend Twilight with her – a two year old, and a four year old. They've been coming to Twilight for their whole lives! Now that Nancy is more comfortable with her English, she is focusing on helping her children learn English, too. Her four-year-old son will be starting school next year. Nancy wants to make sure he's ready to interact with

his English-speaking peers. She's trying hard to juggle her work schedule with Twilight so she and her kids can keep getting the help they need to succeed.

Thanks to generous community members like you, Twilight is completely free, including transportation. That means it's truly accessible to the families like Nancy's who need it most. Twilight has changed the lives of more than 200 families this year. Would you like to help? There are lots of ways to get involved. You can make a contribution to support Twilight using the enclosed blue envelope. You can volunteer as a tutor or program helper. You can offer a class or service to connect parents to community resources. Call us at (714) 309-4962 today!



Interesting facts about Twilight Program Participants:

- 26% report getting a job because of improved English skills.
- 26% report getting a raise or promotion at work because of improved English skills.
- 90% feel more capable of helping their children with their homework.
- 94% report reading to their kids more often.

Your Support is Needed to Open a New Boys & Girls Club in 2015

A mom named Jessica would like to tell you how you changed her life for the better. "Words cannot express my gratitude for the help I received from the Club last year. It has enabled me to work full time and go to school full time. I am currently working in the field I am going to school for and have recently been promoted! I would not be able to realize my dreams

without the fantastic staff at the Boys & Girls Club. Thank you!"

With the high cost of quality childcare in Orange County, many parents can't pursue their college dreams without the Boys & Girls Club's help. Without YOUR help. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reports

that a mother's educational level is the best predictor of a child's educational level. If mom goes to college, her child likely will too. That's one reason our new Family Campus at Golden West College is crucial in helping the Club achieve its mission.

This fall, we'll BREAK GROUND on the new Boys & Girls Club Family Campus at Golden West College. By this time next year, the existing preschool will be joined by a new gym and school age Club. The Family Campus will help parents like Jessica go back to school. And, kids will literally grow up on a college campus. That experience will change kids' attitudes about college. College will feel like the natural next step to take after high school, not a distant and unattainable dream.

The Boys & Girls Club is here to make sure the dream of a college education is one that kids can achieve. Kids get the academic support they need through homework help, tutoring, and "teaching moments" in all of our programming. In those "teaching moments," kids learn while they're having fun. Maybe kids learn about engineering while building with Legos. Or practice fractions in a cooking class. Or practice reading while learning lines in a theatre

program. Whatever the activity, the Club makes it educational. With your support of the new Family Campus, kids will grow up to be the successful adults we know they can be.

You can help the Club complete the new Family Campus on time to help up to 2,500 families in

the 2015-2016 school year. \$6 million is needed to complete the \$12 million project. That includes \$1 million needed urgently in the next 12 months. Kids and families in our community are counting on you and the Boys & Girls Club. Will you help?

There are many ways your

family can leave a lasting legacy. You can make a **one-time gift**. Or, your family can make a **multi-year pledge** to maximize your ability to support the community's kids. Gifts of \$25,000 or more will allow your family to be recognized in very special ways. **You could even have a room named after you!** Imagine the teaching kitchen, education center, teen room, or arts and crafts room with your name on it for generations to see!

Whether you can give \$10, \$100, or \$100,000, the families in our community need your help today! Your gift will be a legacy of changing the lives of moms like Jessica, her children, and their children, too. Please support the Building Dreams campaign today!

Change a Life Today!

- Use the enclosed blue envelope to make a one-time gift, recurring gift, or pledge.
- Visit BuildingDreamsCampaign.com and donate online.
- Text GIVE 10625 to 80088 to have a \$10 donation added to your phone bill.
- Call Laura at (714) 309-4962 to donate.

Longtime Staff Members Make the Boys & Girls Club Feel Like Family

When kids come to the Boys & Girls Club, it's like coming home to a big extended family. The Club staff are like big brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. The staff care about the kids. Just like a family would, they want the kids to learn, have fun, and be safe. Their days are focused on giving the kids an amazing Boys & Girls Club experience.

One of the things that makes the staff be able to provide that great family atmosphere is that they're like family to each other, too. That's because many of them having been working together for what seems like forever. 25% of our staff have been on the team for at least 5 years. More than 10% have been with us for 10 years or more. Art Groeneveld, the Club's Executive Director, has been a Club leader for more than 20 years. And, Club CEO Tanya Hoxsie has led the organization for more than 35 years.

Tanya says, "What keeps us coming back day after day is the kids. We have spent thousands of days working together toward what we all believe is the most important thing we can do - helping kids and families in our community. For me and many others who have spent their entire career at the Club, we see the kids

grow up with us. We're so proud of them for all that they accomplish and we're glad to have played a part in that success."

On top of being a family to each other and the kids, the Club's staff is experienced. More than a third of the Club's staff have been caring for our community's kids for at least five years. That's five years of learning and growing, becoming better youth development professionals and leaders along the way. And, the Club's experienced staff share all the wisdom of their combined 450+ years of experience with newer staff. They mentor and guide them. That means moms and dads can count on the Club's staff to take the best possible care of their kids.

Thank you for being part of the Boys & Girls Club family, too! Like family, you help take care of the Club and the kids through your time, talent and financial support. Whether you are new to the family or you've been with us for ages, we appreciate all that you do. You make it possible for the Boys & Girls Club to make a positive change in the lives of our community's kids each and every day.



"When I started at the Club, I was young and worked directly with children - driving the bus and running athletic programs. I tried to introduce kids to new adventures and activities that challenged them and rewarded their efforts. But, at that time, I didn't know as much about the needs of the kids and their families. Now, time and age have made a difference in how I approach my work at the Club. I've raised my kids here at the Boys & Girls Club. They went to our preschools and school age Clubs. My older two even came back to work here during college and my youngest attends the Club now. I know the kind of quality care I want for my kids, so that's what I make sure we offer to every family that entrusts us with the care of their kids. I enjoy working hard for them every day." Art Groeneveld

"After almost 28 years as a preschool teacher, I have seen a great improvement in the quality and the standards of our preschool. Not only did my own two children grow up at the preschool, now my grandchild is in the program as well. I love to be part of the Learning Center "family tradition" for other families too. I've taught younger siblings of previous students and even children of previous students. I have mentored many new teachers. And I have seen the organization grow from being only one Club to six Clubs and we are still growing." Judy Johnson



Honor Roll of Dedicated Service

35 years+

Tanya Hoxsie, CEO

30 years+

Chelo Loshak, Unit Director, Learning Center Preschool

25-30 years

Judy Johnson, Preschool Teacher

20-25 years

Susan Bixler, Unit Director, Robert Mayer Preschool
Art Groeneveld, Executive Director
Karin O'Quist, Infant Teacher
Nancy Park, Program Director, Robert Mayer Preschool

15-20 years

Sharon Bayert, Bus Driver **Samantha Hour,** Program Director, Learning Center Preschool

Lori Lenhardt, Preschool Teacher David Macariola, Bus Driver John Pham, Director of Administrative Services Ted Terrones, Bus Driver

10-15 years

Jamal Dean, Youth Development Professional Tim Nolan, Unit Director, Huntington Beach Branch Laura Portier-LaLumiere, Director of Development

5-10 years

AJ Accetta, Youth Development Professional Elizabeth Campos, Teacher

Steve Dang, Assistant Program Director, Kingston Branch

Candy Gutierrez, Bus Driver

Kecia Johnson, Infant Teacher

Diana Kacic, Program Director, Kingston Branch

Eileen Luong, Office Manager

Lakhena Ly, Infant Teacher

Ramiro Martinez, Bus Driver

Reema Mohammad, Youth Development Professional

Kevin Moore, League Coordinator

Lizet Muñoz, Teacher

Renee Najera, Teacher

Derek Nguyen, Youth Development Professional

Kim Nguyen, Director of Finance

Tony Nguyen, Bus Driver

Caroline Rabanera, Teacher

Leticia Roberts, Teacher

Rebecca Sanchez, Program Director, Oakview

Lara Smith, Office Assistant

Van Vo, Teacher

Gricel Voigt, Unit Director, Kingston Branch

148 more dedicated staff are working their way onto the honor roll!

Growing Up at the Club is a Family Tradition

Way back in 1984, the Learning Center welcomed its very first infant – baby Shaun Voigt. Now, thirty years later, we have welcomed Shaun's baby girl Mia to the Learning Center, too! Shaun says, "It's a hard decision to leave your infant anywhere! But, knowing that my daughter Mia is in a place that's so important to me makes it much, much easier. She's in a place where people love her and take great care of her, like she's part of their family."

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Mia becoming part of the Boys & Girls Club is extra special for Shaun and his family. After graduating from the Learning Center, Shaun grew up at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley. He participated in the Club's afterschool programs, sports leagues, theater program – pretty much everything the Club had to offer. He even came back to work as a staff member during college. In fact, that's how he met his wife Gricel! Shaun and Gricel worked together leading the kindergarten program at the Club's Kingston Branch. Their great future started right here at Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley! These days, Gricel is the Kingston Branch's Unit Director. And, even with his busy schedule as a practicing attorney, Shaun makes time for the Club by giving legal advice in his area of specialty - employment law.

Shaun and Gricel always knew that they wanted their children to grow up in the Boys & Girls Club, just like Shaun did. Gricel says, "The Boys & Girls Club is like family. We always knew Mia would start at the Learning Center, even before she was born! We never considered sending her anywhere else. We can tell from her smiles that Mia's happy there. She loves interacting with her new environment. I know she just can't wait to explore it!"

One of the reasons Shaun knows Mia gets great care is that the Learning Center is under the same leadership as it was 30 years ago when he was a baby. Unit Director Chelo Loshak remembers caring for Shaun in the infant room. She's proud to take great care of Mia, too. Chelo says of her Club experience, "I have enjoyed every single day of my 31 years with the Learning Center. I love seeing the

children's smiles. I enjoy the hugs and conversations I have with families and their children. The most rewarding thing is to see the children reaching their milestones throughout their stay in our program. They have the necessary tools to face their future and the new challenges awaiting them in elementary school. Throughout my 31 years, I have grown and learned so many new things alongside the children in the world of Early Childhood. 31 years ago, quality care looked very different than it does now. I have seen so many positive changes in the program, the organization and myself. I am proud of all we have accomplished. I can say without a doubt that we are truly offering the highest quality of care for every child that enters our doors."

The Club's teachers take special care to create a loving, nurturing environment that's suited to each child's needs and abilities. Each day at the NAEYC-accredited center is filled with lots of fun activities! Kids explore creative art, music and movement, physical and natural science, language arts, gross and fine coordination skills, listening experiences and dramatic play. These all contribute to children's healthy development. Ready to see this program in action? Call the Learning Center at 714-593-0753 to learn more or arrange a tour today!