

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

of Huntington Valley



CLUB NEWSLETTER Summer 2016

Thank You for
Opening the Door
TO A **NEW CLUB** &
GREAT FUTURES!



GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



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

15744 Golden West 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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Meet our 2016 Youth of the Year

Every spring, our organization celebrates the outstanding children in our programs by honoring them as “Youth of the Year.” The honor is a whole year in the making. At each branch, we progress from naming a “Kid of the Week,” to a “Kid of the Month,” and then finally a “Youth of the Year” who exemplifies Boys & Girls Club’s values. The children recognized in this program have shown hard work, dedication to their Club and their community, kindness, courage, perseverance, teamwork, and much more. We’re proud to introduce you to our 2016 “Youth of the Year.”

YERALDINE POLO

Oak View Branch

Yeraldine has big goals and the Club is helping her achieve them. She says, “I want to have the title of being the first person in my family to ever attend a university. I plan to graduate high school with the highest possible grades. After graduation, I plan on attending a university and becoming an accountant, because I enjoy working with numbers. But the most important plan that I hope to accomplish in the future is to be able to make my parents and younger siblings proud of me. I want to show my parents that their hard work, always trying to keep our family stable, will pay off. For my siblings, I want them to look at me as a role model to show that anything is possible with hard work and determination.” We know she makes her family and her friends at the Club proud of her every day and she’s well on her way to making her dreams of a college education come true. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, and especially appreciates the Education Center at the Club, which she says helps her with her AP math class and honors classes.

Yeraldine is creative and loves to see how other kids create and imagine as well. One of her favorite activities at the Club is making art projects. She says, “Not only are we able to create our own art, but we are able to see what other people create. We can see that someone using the same materials as you can think of and create something completely different. All you need is

imagination, which it’s impossible not to have.”



Yeraldine is an active volunteer, already making a difference in her community. She helps with monthly neighborhood cleanups and she volunteers at the library helping younger children learn to read. She says, “I want kids to see that reading allows you to travel to many different universes that you would have never imagined.”

“Thanks to the Club, I have learned not to limit myself, but to say that I am able to do what I put my mind to. The power is within me to show other people that I’m able to change the world.”

PAMELA HOAC

Huntington Beach Branch



12-year old Pamela has been a member of the Huntington Beach Branch for three years. She loves Power Hour, which is a homework club, and the art room, where she likes to draw. Pamela is a member of Torch Club, a community service group for the Club's pre-teens. She enjoys Torch Club and is also a great volunteer all around the Club, helping staff to prepare meals and snacks in the kitchen, helping with recycling, and helping in the kindergarten room. She says, **"The Club allows me to be creative, express myself, and lets me be me!"**

AMANDA McDONALD

ClubHouse Academy

Amanda is a 12-year-old dancer at our ClubHouse Academy. She says, "My favorite club memory is after my first class with Mrs. Allison after being gone for two years. She told me I did a great job and everyone in the class began to clap for me. I became so happy and emotional." Amanda loves dance, describing it as fun, relaxing, and a great distraction from everyday life. She strives to keep a positive attitude and believes that being positive helps improve the community for everyone. Her goals are to continue to develop her dancing skills, flexibility, and to continue to look for opportunities to perform. She says, **"The Club helps me be a more well-rounded person, make new friends, and gives me opportunities to share my talents with others."**

MEGGAN PHAM

Kingston Branch

Meggan is 14 and has been a Club kid for her whole life, starting at our preschool when she was just six weeks old. When she describes her time at the Club and why she loves it, smiles and laughter are a common theme. She loves seeing staff sing and dance through the hallways to make people smile. She loves water balloon fights at the Club that end with everyone soaked and laughing. She loves to bring that happiness to others as well, helping with carnivals at the Club, welcoming and acting as a tour guide for new members, helping run a Haunted House for younger kids and much more. But, she also appreciates the serious side of things at the Club, too. **"The Club gives me a place where I can focus on my studies without being disturbed. It also helped me learn how to be disciplined."** She is looking forward to attending Fountain Valley High School in the fall, where she will be in all AP and honors classes, working toward her career goal of becoming a physician's assistant or pharmacist.



You can help open the door to great futures for kids like these by making a gift in the enclosed yellow envelope today.



Boys & Girls Club Opens New Branch

California's 1st Boys & Girls Club on a College Campus

With your help, Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley made history this spring by opening California's first Boys & Girls Club on a college campus! After more than 10 long years of planning and fundraising, and 18 months of construction, our new Boys & Girls Club at Golden West College finally has its doors open, welcoming kids from north Huntington Beach. We couldn't have done it without your support. THANK YOU!

At the new Kingston Technology Family Campus, the Club now offers a continuum of care that spans programming for children as young as six weeks old at our Robert Mayer Child Development Preschool to high school students at our new Harry & Jayne Board Gymnasium and Pacific Life Foundation Branch School Age Center. Generations of kids will get to grow up on a college campus.

This unique location will inspire kids to go on to college after high school and will also help moms and dads go back to school, with care for their kids right on campus. 200 of our community's leaders gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the new site. In her remarks to the crowd, State Senator Janet Nguyen said, "Every dollar and penny you have given to help with the Boys & Girls Club, and all of the staff and volunteers, you're helping

children now know that college is not out of reach for them and that life can be better and that the American Dream is possible."

From all of us at the Boys & Girls Club, including the generations of kids and their families who will benefit from the new Club for years to come, thank you for every dollar and penny donated. And thank you for every minute you've spent volunteering or spreading the word about the Club to your friends. You are making a big difference to the kids in our community who need it the most!





“...you’re helping children now know that college is not out of reach for them and that life can be better”

- Senator Janet Nguyen



The Club Grows Its Bus Fleet to 18!

Five new buses allow the Club to reach 10 more schools

The grand opening of our new Pacific Life Foundation Branch at Golden West College means that we are serving 10 new schools and we will reach about 350 more kids a day once we reach full capacity. In order to do that, our bus fleet had to grow, too. So, this spring, we bought five new school buses, bringing our fleet to 18!

Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley has the largest transportation program of any youth services provider in Orange County outside of school districts. Why do we need so many buses? Because we transport kids from 40 schools in five districts every single day of the school year and bring them to our Kingston Branch, our Huntington Beach Branch, and now our new Pacific Life Foundation Branch!

More than just a bunch of buses, the transportation program actually helps shape the kind of services we can provide to local kids. Many after school programs operate on school campuses using a classroom or two or maybe the gym to run programs. The lack of dedicated space really restricts the kind of programming that those organizations can offer. That's not the case for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley. We have dedicated youth facilities built specifically for kids to learn and play in during their out of school time. That allows us to operate

more programs and better programs than if we had to operate on an elementary or middle school campus. But, as great as those dedicated youth facilities are and as fantastic as our award-winning programs are, they wouldn't be much good without kids in the building. That's where our bus fleet comes in. Thanks to the 18 yellow school buses in our fleet, we can reach youth not just at a few schools close to our facilities, but youth attending schools all over Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and the surrounding communities in five different school districts.

Fun facts about our transportation program

- 23 bus drivers are part of our team, all of whom are certified by the California Highway Patrol.
- About 600 miles per day are driven by our bus fleet.
- 600 people ride our buses each day.
- Our buses get used in the summer, too! The Club uses them to take kids on field trips every single day of our 10 week summer program.
- Our buses pick up hundreds of English Language Learner families in the evenings to give parents and kids free transportation between their home neighborhoods and the Twilight Education Project.



ClubHouse Theatre Named #1 Arts Program in the Nation

Program Earns Honor Award from Boys & Girls Clubs of America



At its national conference in May 2016, Boys & Girls Clubs of America gave the ClubHouse Theatre program the Honor Award for Program Excellence in the Arts. That means that the theatre program that we run in our Fountain Valley locations is the best arts program offered by any Boys & Girls Club nationwide. And, that's saying a lot, because there are more than 4,200 Boys & Girls Club sites across the country.

The ClubHouse Theatre program reaches about 350 children per year through 18-week musical theatre productions, year-round acting classes, and summer acting camps. The Club is committed to providing the highest quality arts education for the kids in our program. As a result, we have members and alumni that we are very proud of. Members Sydney Horner and Amanda Hay have earned Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Scholarships from a national competition to pursue arts education. Four alumni have won National High School Musical Awards over the last few years. And, several alumni have become successful working actors, like Kyle Selig who was the lead in the national tour of "Pippin" and Tara Barr, who is currently starring on the Golden Globe nominated Hulu original comedy "Casual" and acted in NBC's "Aquarius" in 2015. ClubHouse Theatre is a great example of how the Boys & Girls Club can help young people develop their talents and open the door to great futures.

At the Club, we believe that every child deserves a chance to feel special and feel like they belong. That's

what ClubHouse Theatre is all about. Club member Sydney Horner says, "When I was little, I was afraid of talking to people other than my family. I wanted to speak, but I was filled with so much anxiety, the words just wouldn't come out. I was the most talkative child at home, I sang and danced around the house, but at school, I completely lost my spark." But, after joining ClubHouse Theatre, she says, "I felt like a normal kid, and when I performed in shows at the Club, I gained the confidence to know that I could do anything. I started making friends and developing relationships with adults. I finally felt accepted and I found my voice." Sydney's social anxiety was extreme, but there are many kids in our program who feel like outsiders at school. Like many "theatre kids," they are a little quirky and unusual. Those things that make them different, artistic, and unique are what make them great at theatre. Those same qualities can make them a target for bullying and keep them from being part of the "in-crowd" at school. Once kids are targeted or labeled by their peers, it's hard for them to ever gain acceptance and find their place. But, in ClubHouse Theatre, kids find a fresh start. Whatever labels they may have at



school don't apply in this new environment full of other kids who share their creativity and interests. Would you like to help kids like Sydney who couldn't find a place to fit in or feel safe at school find a safe haven and a home away from home in ClubHouse Theatre? Please make a gift in the enclosed yellow envelope today.

3-Year-Old Leila Overcomes Learning Delay with Help from Learning Center

Did you know that the Club's Learning Center Child Development Preschool is the ONLY nationally accredited preschool in Fountain Valley? The Club works hard to ensure that every child is receiving top quality care. That's why we've earned the gold standard in early childhood education: accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Top quality care means something different for every child. That means the staff at the Learning Center tailor their teaching, their interventions, and their care to each individual child. With 250 kids at the Learning Center, that means a lot of specialized attention, making it absolutely essential that we keep our teacher to child ratios as low as possible – in some classrooms, it's as low as one teacher to every three children.

A mom talks about what a difference this kind of individual attention has made for her child. "My daughter Leila has been attending the Learning Center since September 2015. Early on, it became apparent that my daughter was struggling in this new element

because of a speech delay and because it was her first time at school and away from the family. Throughout the past several months, the teachers and directors have met with us to discuss her progress in the classroom. In fact, they have kept us in the loop by

"...the staff at the Learning Center tailor their teaching, their interventions, and their care to each individual child."

sharing critical feedback on a daily basis and even went the extra mile by meeting with my daughter's speech therapist and doctor to discuss ways to help improve her speech and social skills. We've created a great team dynamic with the preschool and they've developed a game plan for my daughter in the classroom. My husband and I have seen

significant progress in our daughter's speech and social skills and we're confident it will continue. A big part of this progress has to do with the nurturing environment the school and staff has created. We feel she is in great hands at this preschool and is surrounded by individuals who genuinely care for her and her well-being."

