

"We've never found ourselves in a situation this dire with children's learning. Our community has stepped up in a big way."

—BOB LANGSETH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

Community Engagement Keeps Kids From Falling Behind In School

"Miss Lizzy has helped me a lot. We made a special schedule so I can stay organized and calm. I don't miss as many classes and I do all of my assignments. I feel better about myself when I get my work done. I want to say thank you to Miss Lizzy for everything."

—THOMAS, AGE 10 CLUB MEMBER

As our youth return to school, a number of new reports shows alarming numbers of kids falling behind, failing classes, or not showing up at all. Across the country, students are struggling to focus and retain information with online learning, and many are learning less than past years, setting them up for long-term academic challenges.

The consequences are most dire for children who struggled to learn effectively and thrive in school under normal circumstances. They are now finding it difficult, even impossible in some cases, to receive effective instruction, and they are experiencing interruptions in their learning that will need to be made up.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County is keeping young people on track academically by creating learning cohorts where a designated group of students can safely access the internet and computers. Staff and volunteers are there to help kids complete lesson plans, stay focused,

engaged, reading, doing homework, and will continue to do so during and after this transition period.

"Many of the kids we are serving are struggling to keep up in school, and their learning gaps are increasing. Someone recently asked me what happens to the kids who already have learning gaps when schools close and don't reopen for months? My answer is that the gaps keep widening. The inequities continue deepening. That's why Boys & Girls Clubs are so crucial," says Katee Freeman, Unit Director, Downtown Clubhouse.

Direct service staff at BGCSCC Clubhouses are busy 10 hours a day, helping kids log on to Zoom classes, fielding questions and anticipating challenges with virtual learning, organizing workloads and learning stations, constantly

Continues on page 3

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE.](#)

Executive Director Message

JUST OVER 12 MONTHS AGO we began a planned two-week school closure, WHAT A YEAR! Just like you, there wasn't anything in my 40+ year experience that could have prepared me for what has happened during this past one.

Over the past year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County, continued to evolve and find new ways to serve as many members as possible given the circumstances of the constantly changing guidelines. I am **proud of our Board of Directors** for having the conviction to help us reopen our doors one year ago, soon after the total state lockdown. Working with County Health Officials and other partners, we established all-new safety and cleaning protocols, provided over 20 hours of training dealing with social and emotional behavior and set up learning cohorts for the members whose parents were deemed essential workers. Our staff transitioned into a summer program with two four-week camps full of **fun, learning, and new experiences for 120 members**. In the fall, we were prepared to transition along with the schools into a hybrid model of school cohorts and after-school programs when it was determined that it was not safe enough for schools to reopen. Our Clubs made the transition with ease to **serve over 150 members daily**. Because of the success of our learning hubs, the Live Oak School District partnered with us to successfully implement two more cohorts for Shoreline Middle School students. These high risk students were identified as falling behind or did not have access to a quiet, digitally connected space with adult support. Each new challenge was met as an **opportunity to serve more kids and families**, which we continue to do today.

I encourage you to take a **look at our Impact Report** included with this newsletter, and the outstanding accomplishments of our Club this past year.

Words could not express the abundant gratitude I have because none of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our donors and community. As we encountered a year without face-to-face meetings, unable to host special events, and a significant reduction in program income, it was you, the individual donors, and community members, who made all of this a reality. As we move forward, we will continue to prioritize safety and the social-emotional health of our members.

With abundant gratitude, THANK YOU for your commitment to do

**Whatever it takes...
Great Futures Start Here!**



Bob Langseth, Executive Director



As we encountered a year without face-to-face meetings, unable to host special events, and a significant reduction in program income, it was you, the individual donors, and community members, who made all of this a reality.

—BOB LANGSETH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU ROBIN GARCIA

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for underwriting the expense of this newsletter. We're proud to recognize Robin Garcia as our Newsletter Sponsor.



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Continued from page 1...

reminding kids to “safely distance,” and providing on-going care and support.

“It’s a lot to do every day and I wish I could do more. Some of our kids are doing OK with virtual learning, but the majority really need individual attention. I don’t know what I’d do without Miss Lizzy who works with Thomas four days a week, four hours a day. With her help, his grades have improved, his attention span has increased and his self-confidence is soaring,” says Bryon Windsor, Downtown Clubhouse Youth Development Specialist, and Athletic Director.

*“As a mother and substitute teacher in Santa Cruz, I knew that virtual learning was going to be a huge challenge for kids, parents and schools. My kids, who are now grown, were Club Members many years ago, but I still remember the difference it made in our lives. Working with Thomas has been a labor of love, a test of perseverance and one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done. He’s such a great kid with tremendous potential who needed some extra attention and care to keep him on track. **He’s on to do great things, I know it.**”*

—LIZ SAUNDERS, BGCSCC VOLUNTEER

“We’ve never found ourselves in a situation this dire with children’s learning. Our community has stepped up in a big way. Be it through volunteering, like Miss Lizzy, donating supplies or providing financial support. People in Santa Cruz County are truly amazing and we are deeply grateful for them,” says Bob Langseth, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County.

YOU’RE INVITED

APRIL 19 - 23
2021



ACADEMIC SUCCESS



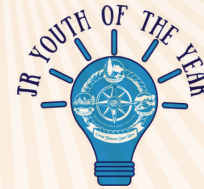
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*“When I’m at school I hear the phrase ‘I don’t care’. I think we should care about things. From where I grew up with my family and community, I do care about things that have happened in this world. **I don’t wanna live in a world where no one cares.**”*

—STEVEN G.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR Steven

**2019 & 2020 Youth of the Year Representative
Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County**

We’re excited to announce Steven as our 2020 Youth of the Year Representative. Steven was also our 2019 Awardee, however with Covid-19 he was unable to be honored properly. We are thrilled to have the opportunity now to be sharing his story of overcoming hardships through music and his Club Experience.

Steven will serve as our Master of Ceremonies to bring you this year’s week-long Youth of the Year event to our entire membership and community. We will not only be celebrating Steven and his amazing accomplishments, but other Club Members of all ages who are participating in programs to build toward this teen focused effort.

For more than 70 years, Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation have honored and celebrated the most inspiring teens and their incredible journeys. Stories of outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle have made Youth of the Year America’s premier leadership and recognition program for teens. These amazing young people represent the voice, and spirit and hope for America, inspiring all kids to lead, succeed and inspire.

For more information, please visit our website.



www.boysandgirlsclub.info



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2020

IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.



The Need in Our State

Every day 607,647 kids in California leave school with nowhere to go.¹ They risk being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe.

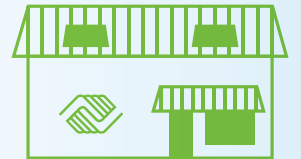
Our Reach



Downtown Clubhouse



Live Oak Clubhouse



Joe & Linda Aliberti
Clubhouse

3

Boys & Girls Club Sites
in Santa Cruz County

50

Adult Staff

87

Volunteers

Member Demographics 1,606 Youth Served

74%

Ages 12 and
Younger

26%

Teens

47%

Minority Races
or Ethnicities

25%

Live in
Single-Parent
Households

17%

Qualify for Free or
Reduced-Price
School Lunch

The Club Experience

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home. We provide welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.

Demonstrating Our Positive Impact

Good Character & Citizenship

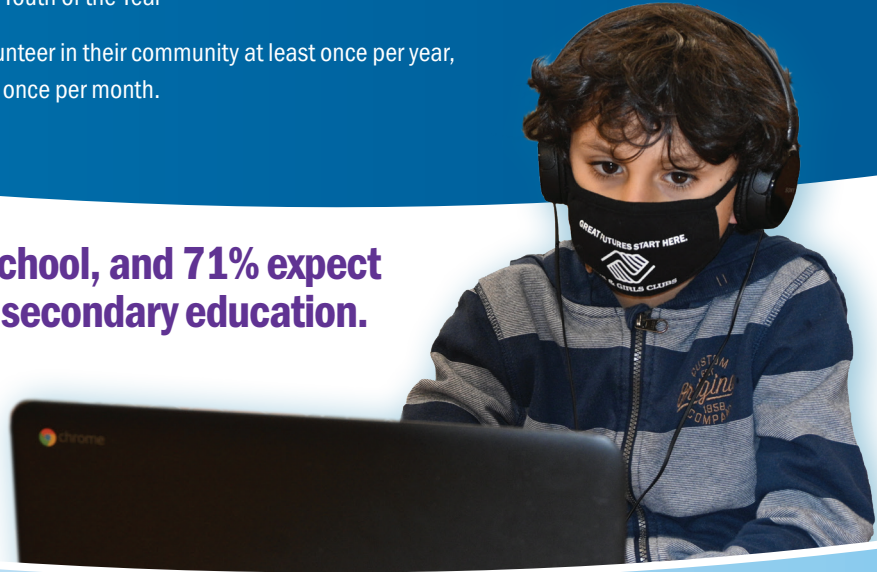
THE NEED — 15% of high-school youth in California were involved in a physical fight in the past year.³

WHAT WE DO — Torch Club, Youth of the Month, Youth of the Year

OUR IMPACT — 57% of Club teen members volunteer in their community at least once per year, while 43% volunteer in their community at least once per month.

85% expect to graduate from high school, and **71%** expect to complete some kind of post-secondary education.

43% volunteer in their community at least once per month.



Academic Success

THE NEED — 9% of young people in California fail to graduate from high school on time.²

WHAT WE DO — Power Hour, Project Learn & Brain Gain

OUR IMPACT — Among our teen-aged Club members, 85% expect to graduate from high school, and 71% expect to complete some kind of post-secondary education.

How you can help

With your generous support, Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County will create opportunities to help more kids and teens achieve great futures. To make a donation or to learn about other ways you can help, contact Bob Langseth, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County, 831.423.3138. www.boysandgirlsclub.info/donate

Healthy Lifestyles

THE NEED — 31% of young people ages 14-18 in California are overweight or obese.⁴

WHAT WE DO — Individual Recreation Activities, Individual Sports, Organized Basketball League, SMART Girls, Triple Play Daily Challenges, Triple Play Social Recreation, and Triple Play Healthy Habits.

OUR IMPACT — 93% of Club members ages 9 and older report getting at least an hour of physical activity on five or more days per week.



BGCSCC
PLEASURE POINT
SURF CLUB

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

¹ America After 3PM, Afterschool Alliance, <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>

² <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel101.asp>

³ CDC, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Results.aspx?TT=A&OUT=0&SID=HS&QID=QQ&LID=CA&YID=2019&LID2>

⁴ CDC, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Results.aspx?TT=A&OUT=0&SID=HS&QID=QQ&LID=CA&YID=2019&LID2>

Club Director Stories

It's not a job. It's a calling.



At the heart of every Boys & Girls Club are youth development professionals, staff members who impart positive values that children and teens take with them into their communities and their futures. Caring women and men who provide our youth with safe, fun, inclusive spaces where everyone is welcome.

Since the pandemic began, the Club has offered over 1,000 hours of supervised programming and 400 hours of virtual learning support, 3,000 meals and snacks, 656 Club-To-Go Activity kits, strengthened our academic help and tutoring programs, and kept kids exercising and engaged in fun activities. We've worked hard and smart together, and our work isn't done. We are hopeful that our youth will head back to school soon, and we know that transitioning back into the "new normal" will require more resources and support than ever before. Our Club Directors are the core for leadership at our Clubhouses. They're the anchors who keep things moving forward. Meet our Club Directors.

Meet Katee **Downtown Clubhouse**

Katee grew up in Santa Cruz and began her career with our Club in June, 2000 as an Activities Aide. Shortly after starting her work with the Club, Katee knew that youth development was her calling. Since that time, Katee has held many roles within the Clubhouse and has worked hard to attain the position of Clubhouse Director.

Katee strives to provide well rounded afterschool and summer programs focusing on academic success, health & life skills, and good character & leadership. Katee is a champion for youth and works to ensure that every Club Member achieves success. As a primary component in helping youth on their journey to success, Katee continuously works with a support team for each youth comprising of parents/family, educators, counselors, and other youth development professionals from various community organizations. Katee is incredibly thankful for these relationships as she knows that it takes a village to enable a child to thrive!

Katee now has the pleasure of seeing her efforts come full circle. Often she is visited at the Club by former Members who are now leading lives as productive, caring, responsible members of our community. In Katee's words, "This is what it's all about! How many other people get to come to work each day, doing what they love by making a difference and then having your former Club Members come back to show you their success. It is incredibly heartwarming."



Meet Jennifer **Live Oak Clubhouse**

Jennifer began her career with BGCSCC at our Downtown Clubhouse as the Education Director in March of 2009, providing academic enrichment activities and programming for our youth.

In March of 2016, Jennifer became Unit Director at the brand new Live Oak Clubhouse. Pre Covid the Clubhouse was serving upwards of 200 children a day.

Inspired by her father, who was gay, Jennifer chartered and served as advisor to the first Rainbow Alliance at BGCSCC to support LGBTQ youth.

"Being a Unit Director means doing whatever it takes to get it done. Some days are spent in the office writing proposals, schedules, and programming. Some are spent preparing and serving snacks, repairing a piece of equipment, counseling children and families through a rough time, reading stories to the children, and occasionally filling hundreds of water balloons for our annual first day of summer water balloon fight. I have so many memories of the hundreds of youth I have served over the past decade. I would not trade my experiences at BGCSCC for anything."



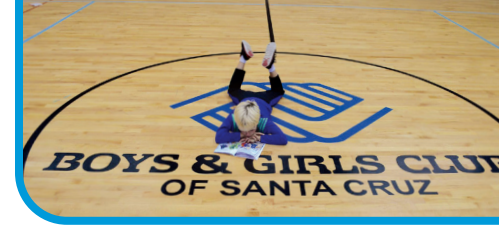
Meet Mike **Joe & Linda Aliberti Clubhouse**

Mike joined the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Cruz as the Teen Director for the Live Oak Clubhouse in 2018. Mike worked hard to create a supportive and active Teen Center where he supervised an average of 60 teens a day. Mike has also been a creative force in the organization with the formation of the Staff Band. Currently, Mike is the Director of the Joe & Linda Aliberti Clubhouse.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

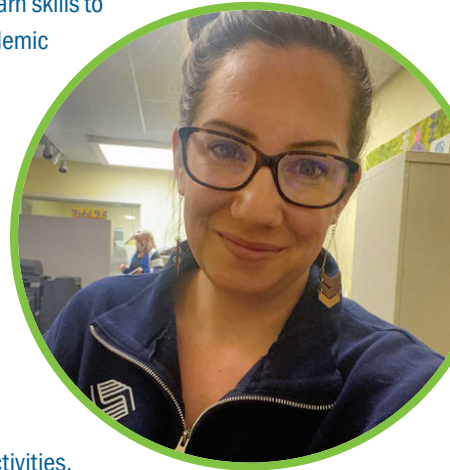
Programming is at the heart of all that we do.



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County provides a variety of programs that are built upon the high-quality club experience, which is to provide a safe, positive environment, establish supportive relationships, create fun, offer opportunities and set expectations and provide recognition for youth and staff.

Each program offered at the clubs reflects these five pillars. Programs such as Brain Gain (a summer learning program that helps with summer learning loss), Power Hour (a program that allows youth to get support for homework after school), Triple Play (a club favorite that gives youth the opportunity to get active and learn new skills!) and Smart Girls (another favorite program that helps young ladies to learn skills to cope with the ever-changing world of social media, body and mental changes that go on). Our programs allow for academic success, room for creative thinking around art and media, learning about healthy lifestyles and leadership within our community. We are proud of what we do and how much our staff has to offer within our community and clubhouses.

While each Clubhouse is encouraged to develop and implement programs that best meet the needs of its Members. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County offers all members (local Clubs) tested, proven, and nationally recognized programs that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people, with an emphasis on academic success, healthy lifestyles and, good character and citizenship. Our club kids use these programs to excel in school, become good citizens, and lead healthy, productive lives driven by passion and purpose.



Meet Maia Yates

Maia Yates, Director of Program Services is responsible for ensuring all programming produces high yield learning activities. In addition, she is responsible for staff and program development, collaborative partnerships with the schools, public, civic groups, and social service agencies within the community. She serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors' Program and Safety Committees. Maia is always making sure our Club is doing everything we can to implement our program vision and strategies. This commitment ensures a high quality club experience for all who walk through our doors.

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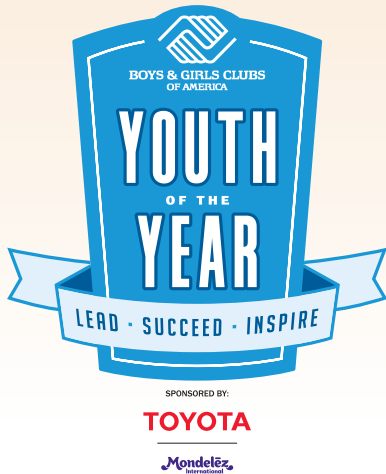


Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County Statement on COVID-19 Virus Impact on Upcoming Events for 2021

Safety is the number one priority of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County, and we are doing everything possible to keep youth, our staff, and volunteers protected from the COVID-19 virus. Due to the continued spread of the virus and in accordance with local health department recommendations, at this time, we have decided to host our upcoming events through June in a virtual format. All other events after June are scheduled according to CDC guidelines. Please check the specific event pages for additional updates.

SAVE THE DATES:

BGCSCC Youth of the Year Week
April 19-23, 2021



Golf Tournament
July 9, 2021



Community Breakfast
Coming October 2021



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

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