



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LEE COUNTY

GROWING GREATNESS

Great Futures Start Here

SPRING 2016



The Taco Bell Foundation is committed to keeping students on the path to graduation and helping them discover their talents. Since 2014, the

foundation has partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs and Graduate for Mas to provide Club members with the tools and inspiration to graduate from high school and achieve their full potential. Recently, high school Club members and rising 9th graders were recognized for their 2015-16 academic achievements during the Graduate for Mas Graduation Ceremony. Club members renewed their commitment to finish high school by signing the "Promise to Graduate" Pledge. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Ty Evans, associate head coach, Auburn University women's basketball team. Coach Evans shared with teen Club members his personal experience as a Boys & Girls Club member. He stated that he benefited greatly from the Club programs which provided him a practical education while teaching respect for others. He also encouraged them to "stay the course" focused on their goals.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: A Personal Promise of Club Teens



Amorri Jackson is the 2016 recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship to the college of her choice from Tacala Charities and Taco Bell Foundation for Teens. When asked what being

selected for the Graduate for Mas scholarship would mean to her, Amorri responded, "Being accepted for this scholarship would show me that my good grades in school, active membership in the Boys & Girls Club, and my attentiveness in the community actually paid off. It would also show me that I am on the right track for increasing my future and reaching my goals. Being rewarded for the good one does in the community and in their club can be a great encourager for continuing to do greatness. The Boys & Girls Club motto is "Great Futures Start Here" and being a member of the club has made me a better person overall. It has not only made me a better person in school, but at home, in my community, in church and in my club. Being accepted for this scholarship would also give me a sense of accomplishment. Finishing the things that I start has always been something that I've yearned to do. Finishing high school, going off to college, and then going to medical school are the goals that I plan to achieve. Being a pediatric nurse has been my aspiration since I was a small child. It is something that I am passionate about and yearn to do and being accepted will get me one step closer to my career."

TACO BELL
FOUNDATION
FOR TEENS

YOUR INVESTMENTS IMPACT OUR KIDS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Thank you for taking time to read our Spring edition of "GROWING GREATNESS"! Our Club members have enjoyed a very successful school year and have tucked away textbooks and backpacks to enjoy a couple of months of Summer vacation. In this issue, we take the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of some of our Club members and their "Promise to Graduate", to spotlight a couple of our many volunteers, and to say "THANKS" to YOU, our community for your support of our efforts to help every child have a genuine opportunity to realize his or her full potential -- in short, to achieve a Great Future.



For Boys & Girls Clubs, the end of school year means the beginning of a Summer filled with longer days spent with friends enjoying fun games, field trips, and other exciting experiences. We know that when young people participate in enriching summer activities, they are less vulnerable to the "summer slide" that can impair their knowledge retention from school year to school year. For the past three years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County has included the Summer Brain Gain program to provide fun and meaningful learning activities during summer months. Stay tuned for the Summer edition of our newsletter to learn how this program and other activities and special events are making this Summer a GREAT one for our Club members. Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!

Standa J. Lewis

RECOGNITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL PROGRESSION



MAYORS JEANS & JACKETS BALL

RAISES OVER \$93K FOR CLUB KIDS RECORD HIGHS FOR THE 2ND YEAR

The 11th Annual Mayors Ball was held on Thursday, March 31st at the Bottling Plant Event Center in beautiful downtown Opelika. The City of Auburn Mayor Bill Ham and City of Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller were the official hosts for the gala. Some 400 guests were entertained by Comedian Jake Gulledge from Atlanta, GA.



"THANKS" TO YOU, THIS EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



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TABLE SPONSORS: Auburn Bank, Mr. & Mrs. Cal James, ESG Operations, Regions Bank, The Bennett Group, In Memory of Eleanor & John T. Harris, Auburn Research & Technology Foundation, CyberZone, SiO2 Medical, Hanwha Advanced Materials America, Congressman Mike Rogers, The Roundhouse, ThermoFisher Scientific, Auburn University President's Office, D&J Enterprises, Public Financial Management, BancorpSouth, Bailey Harris, Harmon Engineering & Construction

Our sincere gratitude to Wal-Mart Distribution Center, all contributing sponsors & silent auction donors for making our silent auction fun & exciting.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Thanks for helping to enrich the lives of our Club members!

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY DONATES
\$1,000 FOR CLUB PROGRAMS**



(L-R) Potter Daniel: Unit Director Drew Bedurah, Alabama Power Manager: Rod Cater, Resident/CPO: Wanda Lewis & Auburn Unit Director: Anthony Brock

**CHARTER FOUNDATION AWARDS
\$10,420 GRANT**

Potter-Daniel Unit Social Recreation/Life skills Center Renovations



(L-R) President Charter Bank: David Reaves, Board Member: Malcolm Marshall, Board Treasurer: Drew Goodner, Board Member: Todd Fullington, President/CPO: Wanda Lewis, Board Secretary: Carolyn Reid, Board Chair: Christen Herring & Board Member: Frazelma Lynn

CLUB MEMBERS SAY "THANKS" TO OUR MAYORS



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

MISS AUBURN UNIVERSITY FINDS INSPIRATION IN VOLUNTEERING



My name is Susanna Bagwell and I am an upcoming senior at Auburn University majoring in Secondary Mathematics Education. I am from Birmingham, AL and graduated from Spain Park High School. A few things about me are that I am on the Tiger Paws Dance team at Auburn, member of Cardinal Key and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Societies, Vice President of Mortar Board Honor Society, College of Education Student Ambassador, and I currently serve as Miss Auburn University. I started volunteering at Auburn Boys & Girls Club Linking Learning Tutoring Program in January 2015 as a required service learning for a class. I did not know much about the Boys & Girls Club, but once I started volunteering I knew it was something special.

After that semester of service learning for my class I asked if I could come back once a week the following semester and then this past semester as well. The relationships I have gained through this program are amazing and unbreakable. By volunteering my time I have gained an immeasurable amount of love for the Boys & Girls Club and for education. I strongly believe that education is the most powerful and valuable tool a student can have for a positive future. This drives my passion for Boys & Girls Club and helping students to see the value of education. While I may be helping these students with their studies, they are helping me with my studies as well. It is so easy to lose sight of why teaching is my desired career path during the busy and sometimes stressful times of school. I am reminded each week when I come to volunteer of why I want to be in education. I can see the heart these students have for learning and for others and it inspires me to continue my journey in education so that I can help students in the future. I am thankful for my time at the Boys & Girls Club and for your students!!

READING IS MY PASSION

When it come to volunteering, one can't make a better choice that the Boys & Girls Club in Auburn. After completing four years as a reading tutor, I am eager to speak about the joys of spending an after school hour with young students at the Boys & Girls Club.

Each Monday I am given a list of students who need extra help. I work with them individually. Some children will read stories or short passages and others study spelling and vocabulary words. We sound out words together and talk about what is happening in the story. The most important facet of this work is encouragement. We work together and I try to show them how interesting and fun independent reading can be. As the days become weeks and weeks become months friendships develop and the students begin to look forward to the sessions together. I love these connections and to watching each child as he or she moves from one grade to the next.

The time I spend listening to students read and helping them expand their vocabulary and conversation skills is a true blessing for me. Just an hour or so a week is all that is needed. There is no special equipment or clothing- no preparation or planning- just a willing heart and a drive over to the Boykin Center.

Reading is my passion and I strongly believe that even a few minutes a day can make a lifetime of difference for a child. I know the time we spend together makes a world of difference in my life. Children and books- there is no better combination.



HELP...

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

Have you signed up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program? www.krogercommunityrewards.com
Each time you shop a percentage of your purchase is donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs.

DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK

Want to help the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County and help you get a tax deduction by donating a car, truck, boat, farm equipment, jet skis, motorcycles, and vans? Call 800-320-0476 today and the helpful friendly customer service representative will help you. There is no cost to you. The company will pick up or tow donated vehicle, give you a receipt, sell it at auction, and send you a tax deduction letter. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County will receive the net proceeds of the auction in your name as a donation.



Do you have an old clunker sitting in your back lot? How about the truck, car or farm tractor that will cost more to repair than its worth? Donate it today and help yourself solve a problem and at the same time help the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County. One toll-free phone is all it takes: 800-320-0476.

WISH LIST

- NEW BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALLS
- NEW BOYS & GIRLS FOOTBALLS
- 6FT FOLDING TABLES
- SOFAS
- CLASSROOM CHAIRS
- LAMINATOR
- LAPTOPS/TABLETS
- 15 PASSENGER VAN
- BOARD GAMES

GIVING A LEGACY

Did you know that 70% of Americans do not have a Will which sets out their final wishes? Everyone needs a Will. Have you thought about leaving a bequest in your Will to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County?

As you discuss your estate planning with your family, attorney and financial advisors, please consider adding a bequest naming the Boys & Girls Clubs as a beneficiary.

Your thoughtfulness will be sincerely appreciated by the children we serve and you will have the satisfaction knowing your bequest will share the many blessings celebrating your life as a legacy to the future of our community: Our Youth.

There are several legacy gifts options which we can help you and your attorney select which one is best for you and your heirs. Often, there may be significant estate tax savings from legacy gifts.

Call Tom Livers, Development Director at 334-502-1311 for a confidential no obligation discussion

**GREAT FUTURES
START HERE**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER LEE COUNTY**

Make a difference
in the life of a child.

**VOLUNTEER.
DONATE.
PARTICIPATE.**



We believe every child has the potential to BE GREAT. Every day, we ask our children and teens at Boys & Girl Clubs of Greater Lee County to push through their challenges, overcome adversities and encourage them to BE GREAT.

How will you BE GREAT?

BE PRO-ACTIVE: Connect your friends, family and colleagues to widen BGCLEECO's circle of supporters.

BE A MENTOR: Volunteer to spend at least one hour per week with a Club member providing emotional support, counsel and friendship.

BE AN ADVOCATE: Schedule a Club tour and bring your friends and colleagues to show them why you support BGCLEECO. Club tours are available to individuals, groups and corporations.

BE A CORPORATE FRIEND: Contact BGCLEECO to discuss how supporting BGCLEECO may enhance your company's community presence and impact the lives of hundreds of children and teens.

2016 GOALS & PRIORITY CLUB NEEDS

Two NEW VANS to transport kids

Upgrade **COMPUTERS & PRINTERS** in tech labs & learning centers

Replace **CHAIRS & TABLES** in learning centers

Add needed **BOOKCASES & SHELVING** in both Clubs

For more information,
contact Wanda Lewis at 334-502-1311
or email wlewis53@bgcleeco.com



**Autumn's
Clay
Mask!**

**Thanks
Mr. Marshall for
Sponsoring our
McDonald's Girls
Basketball Team!**





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LEE COUNTY

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What Do the Clubs Do?

- During the **Power Hour**, Club members complete homework assignments, practice reading skills, & receive tutoring services.
 - **Get Fit/Gym** is the time the kids enjoy playing basketball learning teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance & hard work. The focus of **Get Fit** is to provide healthy exercises such as power walking, jogging, toe touches, sit ups & push ups. The kids really like the fact that they are working on getting into shape & want to learn more.
 - **Social Recreation** is an important part of the Clubs' activities where the kids learn the expectations for behavior & conduct at all times including games in the game room.
 - **The Arts** where the Bells Choir is rehearsing and learning new songs. The kids enjoy free style drawing as well as painting & pastel drawing.
 - **Seasonal Programs** are mixed according to age groups. Third, fourth & fifth graders work on the pencil project whereas the Smart Girls work on issues of self-esteem, building relationships & respect.
 - **SMART GIRLS** is all about guiding young women toward a healthy lifestyle, healthy attitudes & getting good health care.
 - **Pine Hill Literacy Program** where the kids enjoy reading age appropriate books with old & new friends.
 - **Teen Program** focuses on academic goals to identify their short & long term academic goals.
 - **Tech Tuesdays** at the Roundhouse in Opelika where teens learn coding, #D printing, robotics & web apps.
 - **Summer Camp** activities are always a popular series of events each day as well as helping some maintain their grades when they return to school in the Fall.
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