

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Whatever it Takes to Build Great Futures.



MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

BGCSTL President Dr. Flint Fowler & Board Chair Larry Parres

Each year our team works determinedly to attract youth to one of our Club sites. Everyone, staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors, work with a common mission in mind - - to inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The opening of a new Club in 2019, the Teen Center of Excellence in Ferguson, was a special cause for celebration. The Teen Center of Excellence represents the confluence of generous donors and a caring community, with the belief that all children have value and deserve to succeed.

There were many great accomplishments in 2019, and this Annual Report captures many of those moments. We look forward to many more years of impacting the lives of St. Louis' youth! For more than 50 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis been a leader in the youth development space, providing afterschool, summer, teen, and sports programs. Our doors are open and we will do whatever it takes to build great futures for the girls and

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE?

MISSION

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is the most trusted leader in shaping the lives of youth and building their futures.

VISION

For more than 50 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL), a leading youth service provider in the St. Louis region, has been providing after school, summer, teen and sports programs for youth ages 6-18. The Clubs are open during hours that kids are most likely to need a safe place to go — after school and during summer.

CORE BELIEFS

Every child has value

All children can succeed

Children need a safe place to grow and learn

We make a positive difference in a child's life

Children benefit from healthy, ongoing relationships with their peers and caring adults

CORE PROGRAM AREAS



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Helping youth become responsible, caring citizens and acquire skills for participating in the democratic process is the main thrust of these programs. They also develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for planning, decision-making, contributing to the Club and community and celebrating our national heritage.



E. DESMOND AND MARY ANN LEE EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Programs in Education and Career Development enable youth to become profi-cient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations, and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.



HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS

These initiatives develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.



Programs in The Arts enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.



SPORTS, FITNESS & RECREATIONThese Club programs help develop fitness, a positive use of leisure time, reduction of stress, appreciation for the environment and social and interpersonal skills.

Administrative Offices 2901 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63107 314,335,8000

Adams Park Club 4317 Vista Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110 314.633.7900

BE GREAT: GRADUATE at Roosevelt High School 3230 Hartford Street, St. Louis, MO 63118 314.335.8143

Hazelwood Elementary School Club 1025 Trampe Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63138 314.335.8350 2901 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63107 314.335.8000

O'Fallon Park Club 4343 West Florissant, St. Louis, MO 63115 314.932.1371

Riverview Gardens Club 174 Shepley Drive St. Louis, MO 63137 314.335.8275 BE GREAT: GRADUATE at Normandy High School 6701 St. Charles Rock Rd., 63121 636.675.9526

Teen Center of Excellence 9200 West Florissant Avenue, Ferguson, MO 63136 314.335.8240

> Southeast Middle School Club 918 Prigge Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 314.953.7795

> > **Distinctive Programs:** Mentor St. Louis St. Louis Internship Program



Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis

CELEBRATES OPENING OF

Teen Center of Excellence in Ferguson, MO

First in the Country Center to Focus on Serving Teens ages 12-18 in the St. Louis Area

Construction partners on the project were Arcturis, KAI Design and Build, and The Striler Group.

Friends, partners and supporters from the across the region came together to celebrate the opening of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis - Teen Center of Excellence. The \$12.4M center, located in Ferguson, Missouri is one of the first of its kind in the country, serving ages 12-18 and giving them a place of their own to be with friends, express their creativity, acquire new skills, and learn what it means to be an engaged citizen.

In an effort to address the developmental needs of area children, particularly in communities with few options and limited access, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis was encouraged by civic and community leaders to expand its presence in north St. Louis County. Several school-based program sites were established and the Teen Center was conceived. The 26,856 square-foot facility is strategically located on West Florissant Avenue surrounded by four school districts. Features of the facility include a nutrition education center, outdoor garden, gymnasium, intellectual commons, theater, green and drama room, fitness zone, gaming room, music and art studio, innovation center and office space.

BGCSTL president, Dr. Flint Fowler says of the opening, "This is certainly a proud moment in the history of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. Teens deserve a safe place to grow and learn, exercise their creativity, explore their interests, and build meaningful relationships with peers and caring adults. Imagine how wonderful it would be if every community committed this level of support for children. We are also excited to be a part of the wave of development along West Florissant including the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis's Empowerment Center and Plaza, the street scape project, Mercy Health Clinic and development of the Maline Greenway."

Research indicates that teens can thrive in spaces structured around responsibility, belonging, and leadership modeling. Caring, trained adults are necessary to help teens build their assets and promote responsible decision-making skills. Data also shows that they want a space that provides respite from the pressures of school, family responsibilities or the danger of the streets; a place where they can have positive interactions with peers, meet new friends and take advantage of informal relationships with adults who assist them in their area of interest. The Club works with teens as they learn to think critically, use their voice in healthy ways, and discover who they are and how their purpose intersects with their world. It is through this work that hope thrives and opportunities are presented.

Programming includes an emphasis on health & wellness (i.e. yoga, nutrition education, healthy habits, open gym), education & workforce readiness (i.e. college tours, ACT/SAT prep, tutoring, career exploration, internships and summer employment), STEAM (i.e. visual and performing arts, coding, app creation, robotics), and leadership & civic engagement (i.e., community service, candidate and issue forums, advocacy work).

"At Boys & Girls Clubs, we know that keeping teens engaged in experiences at our Clubs, translates to positive outcomes around graduating from high school, abstaining from drugs and alcohol, and preparing for a great future," said Jim Clark, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "We can clearly see our future, by how we set up our kids and teens to be successful. The time young people spend after-school and during the summer is critical for ensuring all kids and teens have the same opportunities and experiences. I applaud Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis for creating dynamic spaces and programming for the new Teen Center of Excellence, which will make a positive impact on young people in this community for years to come."

Construction partners on the project were Arcturis, KAI Design and Build, and The Striler Group.





2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, more than \$8.7 million was raised in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis programs and services.
- Frank Leta Automotive Group presented Danielle Kain, our 2020 Youth of the Year winner, with a car! She also received the Wanda and Michael DeHaven \$5,000 scholarship plus a four-year renewable \$4,000 scholarship from Missouri State University, and a celebratory dinner at the Saint Louis Club.
- Place to Become and Jerimiah Millbank Society donors were invited to a sneak peak of the new Teen Center of Excellence. Guests enjoyed a live music, delicious appetizers, tours and a culminating performance from our teen members.
- Inched our way towards completing the Place to Become Campaign. Currently at over \$22M with a goal of \$25M.
- Secured a \$400,000 Fit and Fun federal grant to support Sports, Fitness and Recreation program at all our sites. Funding is renewable!
- Thanks for our media partners, media attention/coverage for the year was off the chart and included over 329 stories, covering an audience of over 231,138,636 and a publicity value of \$1.75 million.
- Remodeled the kitchen at the Herbert Hoover Club and transformed it into a commercial grade kitchen with specific equipment upgrades to better serve and provide training for our members. Staff worked with KAI (general contractor), Ford Hotel (kitchen equipment and design), Parkway Plumbing, TSI Electric, and Carr Flooring to complete the project. Commercial components were installed including a three compartment sink, a six burner electric range, dishwasher, hot food table, food warmer and refrigerator. A grant from St. Louis Social Venture Partners, the philanthropic arm of the Regional Business Council helped fund the project.

- Established a Board-led safety committee, and hired a Director of Safety and Security to support policies and practices designed to create a safer environment for youth. Programs, training, tools and new resources supported by BGCA are in place to support our commitment to child safety.
- Teamed up with the ZAC Foundation to provide swim lessons and promote water safety to campers as well as launched a new "Drowning Prevention Task Force" to raise awareness of water safety, build consensus around solutions, and provide strategic direction and a framework to guide action while monitoring progress.
- BGCSTL was once again selected as one of the top Clubs nationally implementing the UPS Road Code teen safe driving program



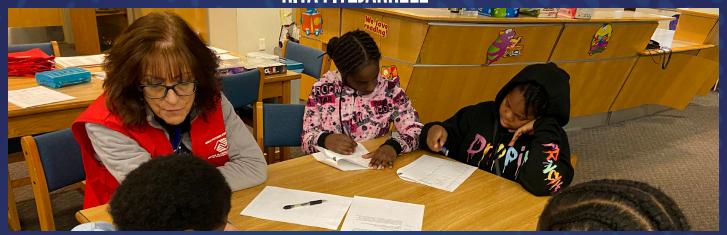
- The Joan Ellyn Silber Award for Volunteerism and Leadership along with a \$1,000 scholarship was granted to Lailah Green from BGCSTL O'Fallon Park Club
- BGCSTL, Best Buy, Premium Retail Services, Gateway PGA REACH and Bellerive Country Club celebrated the grand opening of the newest Best Buy Teen Tech Center at the Herbert Hoover Club. The center is the first in St. Louis and the 25th that Best Buy has opened nationwide. Over 1,100 square feet of space was converted into a fully equipped interactive innovation space with everything needed to engage youth in S.T.E.A.M. activities. The Center includes a music studio, 3D printer, t-shirt press maker, coding stations, state of the art computers, monitors and virtual reality headsets. The Best Buy Teen Tech Center gives members the opportunity to learn critical tech skills and prepare for the tech-related jobs of the future.
- Collaborated with the St. Louis Internship Program (SLIP) to foster greater opportunities for area teens in the career and workforce readiness space. The goal of SLIP is to prepare high school students for the world of work through paid summer internships, intensive employability training, and year-round college and career planning. SLIP works in partnership with businesses and community organizations to strengthen the St. Louis region by developing motivated, talented, and prepared youth for the workforce offering job readiness training (soft skills), college credit, real-life work experiences, and personal development activities.
- As part of the Youth of the Year process, the BGCSTL affinity group, Friends of the Club, partnered with staff to facilitate professional development sessions and serve as mentors for the participants. They regularly met with Youth of the Year candidates, passionately shared life lessons, and conducted sessions on essay writing, personal branding, presentation and interview skills and so much more. Teen participants reported that the sessions were inspirational and boosted their confidence for the competition.
- UnitedHealthcare donated \$1,000, a treadmill and pedometers to help Southeast Middle School Club members "Step Up for Better Health", a national initiative to encourage people to walk more and help combat obesity.

- Over 125 Club members participated in a Geek Squad Academy camp hosted by national partner Best Buy. The campers, ages 10-18, learned about 3D design, music production, coding, and much more.
- est After School Advantage technology lab at BGCSTL's O'Fallon Park Club. The opening was part of a worldwide program that IGT implemented in 1999 to serve youth in communities where the company does business. As part of the \$14,000 donation, the Club received 16 laptop computers with Microsoft Office Software, LaserJet Wireless Printer, Wireless Access, computer hub, and rack to hold the wireless equipment.
- Baseball Hall of Famer and St. Louis Cardinals legend Ozzie Smith joined Grassroots Baseball to host a clinic at the Herbert Hoover Club as part of their Route 66 Tour. Founded by retiring Baseball Hall of Fame President, Jeff Idelson, and acclaimed photographer, Jean Fruth, the initiative is to promote baseball and its benefits. In addition to playing the game, Club members received complimentary Rawlings baseball gloves and balls, as well as autographs.
- BGCSTL received the Merit Award for Program Excellence in Arts for the Music Studio Program. Led by Grammy Award-winning producer/songwriter Alonzo "Zo" Lee, the program guides Club members through the writing, producing and songwriting/recording processes - all aspects of creating a song from start to finish.
- National partner AllState Insurance brought in a group of ten volunteers to assist the Adams Park Club with site beautification and organizing projects. Volunteers cleaned and organized the game, arts, laundry, green and community rooms, as well as the teen center, stairway area and gym to prepare the Club for summer camp! As an added perk from the AllState volunteer day, the Club received a donation for \$10,000!



MENTOR HIGHLIGHTS

RITA FITZJARRELL



Rita Fitzjarrell has been a mentor through our Mentor St. Louis (MSL) program for over eight years, serving at Sherman School then Adams Park Club. She strives diligently to volunteer as least 40 hours each month! Rita was so inspired by her experiences with members that she requested and received a \$500 employee volunteer grant from MasterCard where she works on behalf of MSL. She was effective in as a mentor because the children trust her. Rita is someone they confide because of her personal interests in their individual success. She even took the time to meet one of the student's parents (who works in the cafeteria at Adams Elementary) to share how well her son was performing with MSL. Rita has also participated in various volunteer projects at the Club including the MSL Supply Closet initiative, and Story Design Curriculum Strategy & Trial Runs program.

Rita says of the MSL program, "After I retired I continued volunteering because this is such a valuable program, not just for the students, but for the mentors. I have learned that the students have so much to offer. They teach me about their families, neighborhoods and how they see the world. I see them getting so excited to be in the program and they try to work hard to accomplish any task thrown at them. Actually, I leave each session so happy and uplifted." "Mentor St. Louis" she added, "has always been a rewarding program for me, but this year Syerra has taken the program to the next level and made it even better. She introduced a new reading program, which seemed to help the students with comprehension, understanding themes and increased their vocabulary, while expanding on their creativity.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

OF YOUTH ENGAGED IN AT LEAST 60 MINUTES OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT THE RECOMMENDED AVERAGE OF 5 TIMES PER WEEK (A 26% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

OF YOUTH DEMONSTRATE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY BY CONSIDERING HOW THEY MAY IMPACT OTHERS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION

OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN SMART GIRLS AND PASSPORT TO MANHOOD PROGRAMMING MAINTAINED AND/OR INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF RISKY BEHAVIORS AND RESPONSIBLE **ADULTHOOD**

OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN SMART MOVES PROGRAMMING MAINTAINED AND/OR INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF RISKY BEHAVIORS AND CAN IDENTIFY THE NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN HEALTHY HABITS PROGRAMMING MAINTAINED AND/OR IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF NUTRITION ON GRADE LEVEL

SMART GIRLS CONFERENCE



ALUMNI STATS

80% club staff helped them learn right from wrong.

95% said the club was the best thing in their community.

57% SAID THE CLUBS "SAVED MY LIFE."

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

One of the best out-of-school time learning experiences for girls in St. Louis, SMART Girls Conference attracted 132 youth, 28 parents and 25 volunteers. The annual event, themed "Love Thy Selfie, Mind Body & Spirit" offered dynamic sessions and activities to help our female Club members explore personal and societal attitudes and values, build skills for living a healthy lifestyle and developing positive relationships with peers and adults.

Over 180 male members and 12 fathers attended the Passport to Manhood conference themed "The Makings of a Man". The conference is held annually to equip our young men with life skills, and character and leadership skills to help them become successful!

Teen members from our Adams Park Club and BE GREAT: Graduate program at Normandy High enjoyed a Career Day at the Teen Center of Excellence while under construction! Thanks to KAI Enterprises and Arcturis for leading the day where teens gained hands on experience and gathered deeper insight into the fields of construction, architecture and design!

As part of the Junior Staff program, several teens interned with BGCSTL in the IT, Resource Development and Finance departments.

79%

OF YOUTH MAINTAINED OR INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL DECISIONS (A 5% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR).

87%

OF YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE MUSIC STUDIO PROGRAM WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY, MANAGE, AND APPROPRIATELY EXPRESS EMOTIONS AND BEHAVIORS.

79%

OF TEENS REPORT THAT THEY TAKE ACTION TO REACH THE GOALS THEY SET (12% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR BGCS)

98%

OF JUNIORS AND SENIORS KNOW WHAT EDUCATION OR TRAINING THEY WILL NEED FOR THE CAREER THEY WANT.

82%

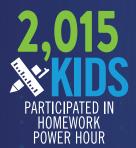
OF YOUTH ARE CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SCIENCE, COMPUTERS OR TECHNOLOGY.



264 PARTICIPATED IN BE GREAT:

73%

KNOW THE STEPS THEY NEED TO TAKE IF THEY WANT TO BE IN A SCIENCE-RELATED CAREER.



PERCEIVE SCHOOL AS BEING VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR LIFE

84%

EXPECT TO GO ON TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

95% OF TEENS EXPECT TO

COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL

OF YOUTH WERE ON GRADE LEVEL FOR THEIR AGE (5TH-12TH GRADE) 84%
OF YOUTH VIEW SCHOOL AS

OF YOUTH VIEW SCHOOL AS BEING IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEM LATER IN LIFE/FIND IT MEANINGFUL (A 4% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR).

ABSTAINED FROM DRINKING

ABSTAINED FROM CIGARETTES

SEX 6 8 % ABSTAINED FROM SEXUAL ACTIVITY

ABSTAINED FROM MARIJUANA USE

GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

87%

FEEL THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

80%

OF YOUTH DEMONSTRATED OPTIMAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH POSITIVE, ADAPTIVE, OR HEALTHY RESPONSES (A 3% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR, 9% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR BGCS).

85%

OF YOUTH DEMONSTRATE EMPATHY AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS BY CONSIDERING HOW OTHERS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THEIR DECISIONS

86%

OF YOUTH BELIEVE THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY (5% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR BGCS)

93%

OF YOUTH FEEL THEY CAN STAND UP FOR WHAT THEY THINK IS RIGHT, EVEN IF THEIR FRIENDS DISAGREE (5% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF BGCS)

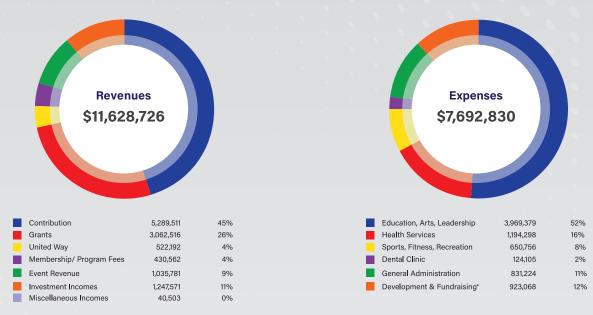
94%

OF TEEN REPORTED THEY TRY TO HELP WHEN I SEE PEOPLE IN NEED (AN 8% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

2019 PROGRAM ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis

Thanks to the generous support of our funding organizations and individual donors, we can afford to help each and every kid achieve their greatest potential, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

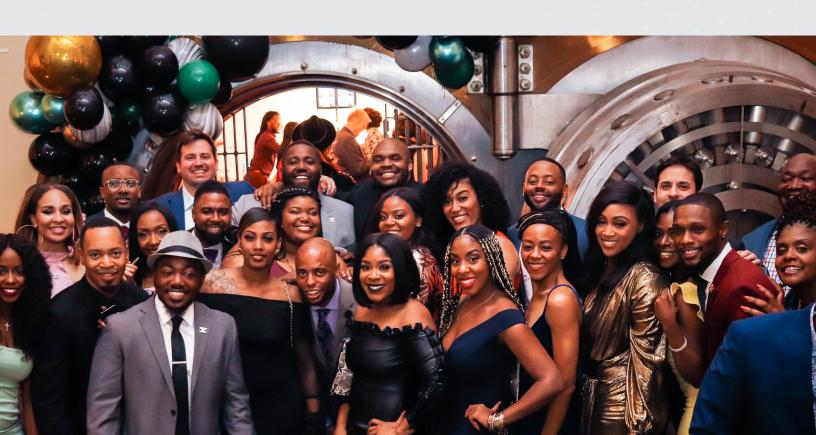


^{*} Includes "Place to Become" campaign revenue and expenses



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Record attendance and fundraising resulted at our Jim Butler's Charity Golf Classic. Thanks
 to our generous donors, we raised \$350,000 to support our vital Health & Life Skills programs
 that teach our Club kids how to live healthy and make good choices.
- After hearing the moving speeches of our four Youth of the Year finalists, our Great Futures
 Gala guests rallied to support Club kids during the Fund-A-Future call to action. The ballroom
 at the Chase Park Plaza was hot that evening as those in attendance raised their paddles
 for a record-breaking total of \$167,000! Proceeds support general Club operations, as well
 as our Educational & Leadership programs.
- The **Table for Four** event broke both fundraising and attendance goals, generating \$128,000 from 500 guests.
- Casino Night, the Club's annual "friend raiser" hosted by the young professionals group, Friends of the Club, raised nearly \$30,000. Attendees enjoyed a night of casino games, food, music and dancing, all to encourage millennials to get involved.
- The Women's Leadership Circle continued their epic Sip & Shop event, ensuring that teen girls participating in the Youth of the Year process have appropriate interview and Gala attire. In 2019, \$4,325 was raised for this great cause creating \$865 for the teens to shop with. The Women's Leadership Circle seeks to connect area women business and community leaders to the mission and vision of BGCSTL, and give them a platform to positively impact the lives of children.





KAHALIA ADAMS

2019 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The 2019 Youth of the Year winner was Kahalia Adams. The 18-year old Parkway North High senior has been a member of the Herbert Hoover Club for ten years. She spent the past year representing the Club at a variety of special events including the grand opening of the Teen Center of Excellence. Kahalia is a recipient of the Wanda and Michael DeHaven Youth of the Year \$5,000 scholarship, and a Honda Accord courtesy of the Frank Leta Automotive Group, and threw out the first pitch at a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game! She also represented BGCSTL at the Missouri Youth of the Year competition held at the state capital.

During her speech, Kahalia reflected on the impact the Boys & Girls Clubs had on her life, saying, "Being a member gives me the opportunity to be around like-minded individuals who aspire to be more than our current situations. The Club impacted my life tremendously by giving me a controlled environment to thrive in. I believe that my divine purpose involves leading my generation by example; while setting the tone for the youth and the elders by carrying myself with the respect and dignity I expect from others. These things would be unattainable for me without the guidance of the Club. The Club has not only shaped me into the young lady I am, but it is grooming me for the type of women that I want to become".

Kahalia plans to fulfill her purpose and use her voice to positively influence young people across the nation and attend her dream college, Jackson State University.



DANIELLE KAIN

2020 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The 2020 Youth of the Year is Danielle Kain! Danielle is a 16-year-old junior at MICDS and eight-year member of the Ferguson Middle School Club. As a result of winning this extraordinary honor, she will serve as the voice for thousands of boys and girls who attend our Clubs. Like previous winners, she received the \$5,000 Wanda and Michael DeHaven Youth of the Year Scholarship, a \$4,000 Missouri State University Youth of the Year scholarship, a celebratory dinner courtesy of the Saint Louis Club, and a car donated by the Frank Leta Automotive Group! Danielle plans to become an Aerospace Engineer.

Most days at the Club you can find Danielle engaged in the Music Studio, or immersed in robotics or other STEM programming. She says the Club has been a constant source of support throughout her journey. During her time at the Club she has won the BGCA Hank Aaron Scholarship Award, allowing her to purchase STEM materials and equipment to provide sessions for elementary, middle, and high school Club members; participated as a teen panelist at Harris Stowe State University's Spark the Mind Advancing the Agenda for African Americans in STEM event, which led to her unforgettable personal meeting of Aprille Ericsson, current aerospace engineer for NASA; competed for the nationwide 2019 STEP Ahead Awards and won 1st Place in the high school division, which included an all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C; and also received the Joan Ellyn Silber Award for Volunteerism and Leadership. Danielle has shared her Boys & Girls Club experiences on television and at events throughout the region.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive, and is the signature national youth recognition program that celebrates the recipient's contributions to their family, school, community, and their Boys & Girls Club.



ALUMNI PROFILES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Alumni - A True Measure of Club Success!

Generations of America's kids have found a better life and brighter future thanks to Boys & Girls Clubs around the world! Statistics show, due to its tested and proven programs, Boys & Girls Clubs have an immediate and long lasting impact on the lives of Alumni!

Club alumni are a testament to the power and importance of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.









Ahmad Hicks
KSDK Sports Reporter
Herbert Hoover Club Member: Ages 6-13

Club Impact: My most memorable experience at Herbert Hoover happened to be a trip to Six Flags at the end of the summer during my final year at camp. I had a group of friends, we were the cool kids you could say. But yet when we got to the amusement park, none of us would go on rollercoasters. Some cool kids, right? After a few pep talks, we all found the courage to ride and had the time of our lives. I'll never forget that day and how we overcame our fears together.

Being a member of Club introduced me to all kinds of backgrounds and kids all over St. Louis. It was because of HHC that I'm so connected to people all over the city. I met friends for life, and learned that not every young black kid is the same. I learned to adapt and accept everyone for who they are, no matter where they come from or how they looked, which helps a great deal being a journalist now.

Without Herbert Hoover and their countless sports teams, coaches, and their summer program, I wouldn't be the man I am today. I'm glad to have spent the majority of my childhood there.

Inducted five new former Club members into the BGCSTL Alumni Hall of Honor and celebrated staff, board members, volunteers and supporters for their commitment to mission at the Annual Recognition Event. The 2019 inductees are Mark Collins, Ill, Precious Johnson, Alaina Lopes, Cardin Dean Rackley, Mark Stallion, and, Kal-El Waters-Jones. The Hall of Honor recognizes outstanding alumni for achievements in their respective fields, commitment to leadership, serving our community's youth, contributions to the St. Louis community and for living out the mission of the Boys & Girls Club.



Paris Thompson
Nike Experience Cross Trainer, Nike
Herbert Hoover Club Member: 2005

Club Impact: I joined the Club much later than my peers who always spoke so highly of their experiences! My sophomore year, I joined and quickly realized how cool it was to be associated with such a beautiful space. I joined Keystone Leadership Club and had the opportunity to help host during the reopening of the new portion of the Herbert Hoover Club. Some of the attendees were so impressed they sent a letter to Ms. Liz. That meant the world to me at the time! The relationship I was able to build with Ms. Liz carried into my adult life and has often served as a barometer for how I show up in my community currently. Being a part of the Club, is truly one of my life's greatest experiences."



Dr. James PaineChief Operating Officer, CareSTL Health
Herbert Hoover Club Member: 1985-1988

Club Impact: My time at the Club was imperative to my growth and personal development. It really helped shape my understanding around the value of teams, fair, yet 'fully engaged' competition, and it taught me how to learn from and receive coaching. My favorite activity was basketball, and the Club was the place where I fell in love with competition.



Rashidah Ivory
Educator
Herbert Hoover Club Member: 1997-2001

Club Impact: I was the Billingsley 1999 Youth of the year Honoree. I participated in the afterschool tutoring program where I was able to assist with tutoring younger Club members. I learned a lot about team sports, and music. I played foosball almost every day, and spent many hours playing and teaching basketball to my peers and younger campers. During my years at Herbert Hoover I developed many positive relationships that are still dear to me today. The Club has always been big on creating a safe, positive environment and offering opportunities for Club members to develop positive supportive relationships not only with adults but with other members within the community. I learned through various programs how important it is to reach my full potential. As I began to develop into young adulthood, I relied heavily on the life skills I acquired as a participant and the strategies I learned helped me develop positive relationships with people. I am currently a teacher and have coined some of those same principles and strategies that impacted my life as a Club member. Those life skills have helped me not only be able to positively impact my students but also give their parents some strategies that they can use and resources that can help them at home, and within their own community.



MEMBER MOMENTS



Maurice M.
Age 12
Teen Center of Excellence

Maurice was one of the first members to sign up after the opening of the Teen Center of Excellence. He discovered the Club when his school had the opportunity to tour the facility and participate in an abbreviated version of its many programs. Later that evening, Maurice and his sister walked from their home with applications in hand to register for memberships! Maurice loves participating in every program but he takes particular interest in Music Studio and Innovation Center. S.T.E.A.M. Manager, Ms. Angel stated, "Maurice is a brilliant coder and loves to help others." Maurice can program a robot to dance and walk through a maze in less than two hours. In the Music Studio, he is very attentive and creative and after grasping concepts, he returned a day later with lyrics using real life examples, ready to record. Maurice boldly navigates through life using this same level of enthusiasm.



TeShaun D.Age 12
Herbert Hoover Club Member

TeShaun has been a Club member for five years. Although he takes full advantage of all Club programs, the Triple Play program is his favorite and, has assisted in the development of social skills that will benefit him for a lifetime. During the initial stages of his membership, TeShaun was extremely shy and quiet however, he has overcome those obstacles and is now one of the most energetic members we have! His participation in activities has positively influenced his interpersonal skills tremendously. The Triple Play activities that TeShaun enjoys are kickball and basketball.



Troy S. Age 17 Teen Center of Excellence

Troy received news that he was selected to be a performer at the 2019 Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference in Houston, Texas. His entry was one of only ten selected from over 110 audition videos. As part of the honor, Troy participated in a series of virtual coaching sessions with a BGCA expert vocal, movement and performance coach. He sang at the opening and closing sessions of the conference, and many times during the event!

The greatest surprise to Troy (and everyone in attendance) was being named the first ever Aryana Pizarro "Fly Right" Award winner during the conference's closing event. The recognition is in honor of Aryana Pizarro who served as the first National Conference Youth Talent Ambassador and lost her life in a terrible car accident. Troy was nominated by his peer performers because he embodied Aryana's spirit of kindness, collaboration and character. To honor this occasion, Boys & Girls Clubs of America awarded Troy a \$12,000 scholarship! Congratulations Troy and thanks for proudly representing BGCSTL.





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