



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF COLLIER COUNTY

# W I N T E R Newsletter



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**DECEMBER 2024**

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**GL HOMES AND BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB OF COLLIER COUNTY**

## **HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE**



**Donate new toys, gifts for teens  
and gift cards.** Drop off at Nichols  
Club at 7500 Davis Blvd., Naples,  
or use the QR code to ship directly  
from Amazon or make a gift.

**NOW THROUGH  
DECEMBER 13**



## **A letter from the President & CEO**

**At Boys & Girls Club of Collier County, advocacy at the state level is essential to advancing our mission. Advocacy doesn't just strengthen our visibility; it directly impacts our clubs financially and amplifies our capacity to serve more youth with quality programming.**

Each year, state funding helps us provide essential services and resources that fuel our mission. This support allows us to focus on what truly matters: empowering our young members to develop their full potential.

State funding has a direct impact on our financial health, allowing us to maintain and expand programs without passing costs on to our families. It also helps us bring in additional resources and revenue at the local level, creating a ripple effect that strengthens our entire community. By leveraging both state and local support, we can do more for our youth, providing access to new opportunities and high-quality programs led by specialized and well-trained staff.

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Advocacy has also made a difference in our flagship Youth of the Year program. Thanks to increased support, we've been able to enhance the quality of this program, creating more opportunities for teens to develop public speaking, leadership, and other critical life skills. With these resources, we recently launched a Junior Youth of the Year program, allowing members in middle school to begin their journey of personal growth and recognition earlier.

In April, our 2025 Youth of the Year, who will be announced at our Great Futures Gala on February 26, will proudly represent us at the state competition in Tallahassee. This experience includes not only competing for the state title but also meeting with state representatives to share their stories and advocate for continued support of our clubs. These conversations are powerful; they bridge our clubs with local and state supporters who believe in our mission.

Through advocacy, we make strides not only in funding but in building a future where every child has the opportunity to succeed. Your support strengthens our voice, our community, and our youth. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Best regards,



**Megan McCarthy Beauvais**

President & CEO

Boys & Girls Club of Collier County

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



# Mentor Spotlight

**Tasheekia Harris** Strives to Bring Out the Best in Every Club Member

**Ten years ago**, Boys & Girls Club of Collier County Founding Board Member, Mary Pat Hussey, handed a card to Tasheekia Harris, the Club's Leadership Consultant. Inside, the copy read, "Thank you for your work and for helping **Thousands** of our members." Tasheekia was struck by the enormity of this statement, and a wave of gratitude and reverence for her work came over her. Recognizing the number of young lives that she impacted deepened her commitment to continuing to help Club members reach their fullest potential.

The Club provides a safe place for young people to learn, grow and develop the emotional, social, and communication skills they need to become successful adults. It is much more than an after-school program; it is a place where futures are shaped through mentorship, guidance, and educational enrichment. In her critical role with the Club, Tasheekia works tirelessly to ensure that every child who walks through its doors feels valued, empowered, and inspired.

When Tasheekia joined the Club, her goal was to teach children and teens about self-respect and respecting others, and how to open their minds to their dreams and aspirations. Two decades later, she continues to do exactly that each and every week. Her longevity in programming led her to develop her own curriculum, which has given our Club members the most in touch, relatable and empathic resources to elevate their self-value, choices and leadership abilities.



Tasheekia has dedicated more than 20 years to leading Club members through several transformative programs, including facilitating Junior Women of Initiative, Youth of the Year Leadership Suite, Crowning Daughters for Success, and Mr. & Miss Manners programs. She has helped members gain the knowledge, experience, and confidence to make wise choices when they are confronted with life's personal and social challenges.

These programs have won State Alliance and Boys & Girls Club Program of the Year awards and, most importantly, her work has changed our youth's self-perceptions to believe in themselves and others.

An author, professional speaker, entrepreneur, and child advocate, Tasheekia is proud to watch Club members blossom. She has successfully maintained ongoing mentor relationships with more than 200 alumni Club members and continuously celebrates their achievements.

**"For many of our young members, the Club is a place for learning, friendships, and fun," said Tasheekia. "It's my privilege to be a part of their journey, providing a safe and supportive out of school time environment that encourages each child to dream big."**

## Tasheekia's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

-  20+ years leading youth programs
-  Served as a mentor for over 200 alumni Club members
-  Published author, professional speaker, and entrepreneur

# Member Spotlight

## Josey Continues on Path to Personal and Academic Success



Each day, hundreds of Collier County working parents trust our staff and buildings to keep their children safe, supported and happy. Each day, we provide an environment free of fear and danger and programs that immerse our Club members in ways that help them develop to their fullest potential.

A Club member for three years, Josey appreciates having a safe place to go after school and during school breaks. During the pandemic, when so many aspects of our lives were shut down, the Club was there for Josey. He credits the Club for bringing him out of his shell and providing him with activities that allowed him to make friends. The Club helped him develop social skills and taught him the joy of helping others.

**“I have been a part of distributing food through the Brighter Bites program and have learned how awesome it feels to help people out. The Club has taught me kindness and compassion.”**

Josey has been surrounded by supportive mentors who continue to encourage his athletic and professional sports aspirations. “At the Club, I have been able to develop my skills in many sports and learn about leadership and teamwork. I have also seen the value of great coaches and mentors in my life. When I dislocated my shoulder and was taken by ambulance to the hospital, Coach Nigel, the Club’s Athletic Director, never left my side. He stayed with me until my mom could get to the hospital. And he stayed with us until I was able to go home. I was scared and in pain, but I was never alone. Coach Nigel made sure of that.”

This unwavering commitment of our staff to the youth we serve facilitates experiences and achievements that create confidence in our members to have big dreams and to pursue them. Josey aspires to be a college basketball player and to study sports analytics. Josey feels the Club moves him towards his dreams every day.



“Coach Nigel and Ms. Tasheekia teach us that success comes from putting in the maximum effort. They teach us to respect ourselves and our peers. Through sports, coaching, and classes they teach us how to find and deliver our voice. They enable us to learn about sportsmanship and leadership through actions. I’m really grateful to come here every day.”

— Josey  
Speaking about lessons learned from Club mentors



# 2024 CORE AREA UPDATES

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS



This semester, members are engaging in Power Hour as soon as they arrive at the Club. Their enthusiasm and dedication may be attributed to Power Hour's new weekly grade check-ins and special incentives, along with access to exclusive clubs and projects, for members who complete all of

their assignments. This strategy has significantly motivated members to immediately complete their homework and demonstrate their commitment to academics. Members express appreciation for having certified teachers on-site to assist with their homework.



**98%**  
of Club members are promoted to the next grade level on time.

## COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



**30**  
opportunities offered to explore college and career options

In Career Launch high school members explored job application websites, such as LinkedIn and Indeed, learned what recruiters seek in job applicants, and discussed job interviews. Meanwhile, middle school members engaged in a "Fact or Fiction" game to learn about careers and developed a career family tree to explore different career paths.

## CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Ten Nichols and Bolch teen members competed in our newly launched Junior Youth of the Year (Jr. YOY) program. With guidance from Leadership Consultant Ms. Tasheekia, they honed their interview skills to prepare for a competition.

Members introduced themselves, delivered a two-minute speech about their Boys & Girls Club experience, and answered questions from a panel of judges comprised of community and staff members. Three finalists received scholarships and Maria was awarded our 2024 Junior Youth of the Year.



**60%+**  
of Club members believe programs help them build confidence and leadership skills.

## THE ARTS



The Club's music program helps members appreciate and value music. Members are exploring various instruments, including the piano and drums, as well as learning about musical notes and scales.

Many Club members are discovering their natural talents and newfound enjoyment of music. One 8th grade member recently shared his excitement about being able to take both drum and piano lessons.



**85%**  
Club members participated in fine arts programming

## HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS



In the Money Matters program, teens are actively engaged in conversations about life after high school, gaining valuable insights into real-world financial management. Each member selected a career and made key decisions such as whether to attend college, where to live, and the type of lifestyle to pursue.

Members simulated weekly and biweekly paychecks and were charged rent, car payments, food, and other expenses. To make the experience more realistic, unexpected costs, such as flat tires, medical bills, and natural disasters, were introduced. This hands-on approach helps members understand budgeting, prepare for financial setbacks, and learn to be fiscally responsible.



**73%**  
reported an increased sense of safety, emotional and physical well-being

## SPORTS, FITNESS & RECREATION



In partnership with Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), selected members from Bolch and Nichols had the opportunity to attend the Annual Cal Ripken Summer Camp in Aberdeen, Maryland. This five-day baseball camp, hosted by the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, brought our Club members together with members from other Boys & Girls Club organizations from 25 states. The experience was both enriching and memorable, marking a significant milestone in their personal and athletic development.

**82%**  
of female members participating in sports advanced into competitive sports clubs

# IMPACT FACTS



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF COLLIER COUNTY  
7500 DAVIS BLVD.  
NAPLES, FL 34104

**110,654**  
meals served

**97%**  
high school graduation rate

**1.2 Million**  
hours of out of  
school time instruction

**70+**  
schools served

**75%**  
of Club member families make less  
than \$53,000/year

**52%**  
of members have attended 2 years+

**35+**  
partnering organizations benefiting Club  
members and their families

Mr. & Mrs. Summer Supporter  
1234 Naples Way  
Naples, FL 34102

## SAVE THESE DATES TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!



THURSDAY  
**FEB 6**



WEDNESDAY  
**FEB 26**

For more information, visit [www.bgccc.com/events](http://www.bgccc.com/events)

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF COLLIER COUNTY

**Nichols Club in Naples**  
Administrative Office  
7500 Davis Boulevard  
Naples, FL 34104  
Phone: 239-325-1700

**Bolch Club in Immokalee**  
1155 Roberts Avenue West  
Immokalee, FL 34142  
Phone: 239-675-7003



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