



# CLUB CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia

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## Outcome Driven

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO PHILLIP BRYANT**



As we reflect back on the second quarter for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia (BGCCG) it immediately brings to mind our situation a year ago. For most of the second quarter in 2020, our clubs were closed, our staff was sent home, and our community paused to assess the situation.

And though a year later has its own set of hurdles, we can see very clearly the progress we have made as a community and the impact we have had as an organization. In Q2 of this year we see several milestones worth celebrating:

- All our high school seniors graduated on time and transitioned successfully into college, the military, or a career
- All students registered with the BGCCG transitioned to the next grade level on time
- Over 300 kids enrolled in Summer Camp, which specifically focused on recovering from learning loss
- Introduced Summer Camp attendees to community organizations like the Middle Georgia Regional Libraries, the Brookdale Warming Center, Monroe County Emergency Services, UGA's 4H Club and more
- Organized college and community tours for high school students

## National Youth Outcome Indicators for 2020

Category	National	BGCCG
Safety	83%	78.5%
Academic Success & Expectations	50%	75.5%
College/Career Preparation	48.5%	83%
Good Character & Citizenship	66.2%	70.1%
Teamwork	85.5%	85.5%
Leadership	81.5%	88.5%
Integrity	87%	93%
Goal Pursuit	60%	73%
Volunteering	52%	54.5%
Conflict Resolution	68.8%	74.8%
Concern for Others	89%	92.6%
Concern for Community	78%	88%
Healthy Lifestyles	83.5%	89.5%
Physical Wellbeing	40%	50%
Risk Behavior Avoidance	82.4%	96.8%
Social Emotional Development	76%	76%
Coping with Challenge	86%	89.5%
Identifying Emotions	77.5%	83%
Problem Solving	78%	81%
Self Efficacy	90.3%	93.3%
Empathy	89%	92.6%
Impulse Control	64%	70%
Legacy Club Experience	78.6%	84.5%
Emotional Safety	83.7%	87.7%
Physical Safety	74.3%	81.3%
Sense of Belonging	81%	88%
Fun	81.3%	86.3%
Adult Connections	68.5%	80.4%
Expectations	92.6%	96.6%
Recognition	78%	87%

In a normal year, these accomplishments would make us proud. Considering the additional barriers faced by our students and their families, we are overjoyed at the resiliency displayed by the kids and teens in our care and honored that the Club Experience has played an important role in their development.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America released National Youth Outcome Indicators (NYOI) for 2020 during this quarter. This allows us to assess our progress against the national average, collected from clubs across the country. The report measures many outcomes and factors that shape youth development. We have included a snapshot of our performance as reported by the NYOI, based on individual responses by kids measuring positive outcomes.

Overall, BGCCG exhibited an 82.45% average of positive outcomes across all categories compared to a 75.14% national average. This measure shows that while we push ourselves to be even better, we can be proud that our outcomes are overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you for being a supporter of BGCCG. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth of Central Georgia and partner with you to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Phillip Bryant  
President & CEO

# SUMMER CAMP



Summer Camp with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia is all about preventing summer learning loss. During the summer, children and teens can lose about two months worth of math and writing skills. Covid-19 has had an added impact on education this year, putting a strain on the learning development of youth across the country. We implement programs that not only reduce learning loss but advance our kids for the coming school year. Our programs maintain, develop, and engage our kid's minds and bodies.

This summer, we reached over 300 kids through our summer camp programs. We partnered with some amazing organizations that helped make a fun-filled summer while still being educational. Club Kids learned fire safety from local firefighters, they learned about conflict resolution and bullying prevention from puppet shows, they learned about healthy food alternatives during cupcake wars, and many more activities and field trips. Needless to say we had a blast this summer and are already looking forward to the next one.

We are grateful for the continued support from partners like Geico, who donated \$2,500, and individual donors who gave toward scholarships for kids' summer camp enrollment. Collectively, donations allowed for nearly 20 kids to attend summer camp that otherwise would not have been able to. Contributions like these give youth the opportunity to succeed.



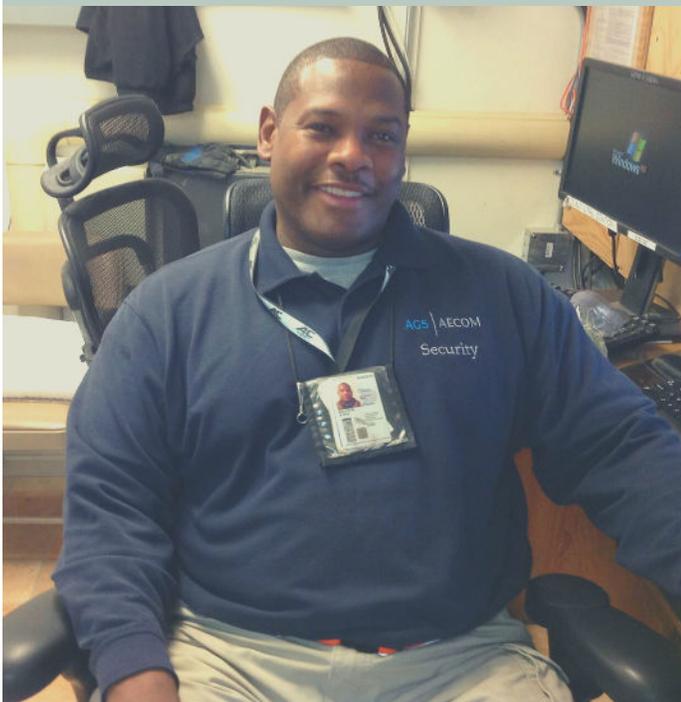
# ALUMNI FEATURE

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"The Clubs offer a great program! Any child attending is fortunate to go and will learn something. It is all together rewarding, kids will definitely get something positive out of it."

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Steve Balkcom  
BGCCG ALUMNI



## Steve Balkcom

Steve Balkcom started attending the Club when he was 11 years old. Steve grew up with his foster parents and three brothers. His parents wanted a safe place where their children could go after school, a place that would keep them out of trouble. Steve recalls the first couple of times "being made to go" to the Club, but soon enough Steve was inviting his friends to join him.

The directors really made a difference in Steve's life, he especially connected with one director who became a mentor for him. Growing up, Steve's favorite program was the swimming program that the Club had. He excelled in that program, so much so that he became a junior lifeguard. It was his first paying job, he still remembers receiving his first check to this day.

The Club experience taught Steve structure, which inspired him to enlist in the military after graduating high school. For three years he served in active duty and continued into the reserves for another 20 years. Today, he serves our community by working for Bibb County Law Enforcement as a court security officer. Next year, at the age of 60, Steve looks forward to retiring.

In his spare time, he likes to work on woodworking projects and create cement flower pots. Every now and then you can find Steve volunteering at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia, something he hopes to do more often in retirement. In the nearly 50 years that Steve has known the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia, he has always been a huge advocate for our organization. He can still see the positive impact the Club had on him and his family to this day. Steve Balkcom is a role model for the Boys & Girls Clubs outcomes and mission. The Club gave Steve the support and structure he needed to lead a successful life and become a productive, caring, responsible citizen.

# KEYSTONE CLUB



*The Keystone Club is a teen program for youth ages 13 to 18 that seeks to provide leadership development and opportunities, both in and out of the Club. The ultimate goal of Keystone Club is to positively impact teens, their Club, and their local communities. This program includes three main areas that teens focus on with the guidance of an adult advisor.*



## Academic Success

In the last couple of months of the 2020-2021 school year our teens worked diligently to ace their exams and essays. All our members successfully moved forward onto the next grade and our high school graduates transitioned into college, military, or workforce. All in all, a great ending to the school year. However, while school must come to an end, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia never stops learning. Research indicates that summer break is when youth lose a lot of the information they've learned and retained. Summer Programs focus on STEM and reading and literacy skills. This summer Keystone members visited the local library and were invited to join the Summer Reading Challenge. Members finished off the quarter with a viewing party for the National Keystone Conference. The theme for this year's conference was Rise Up, and our Keystone Club definitely knows how to rise to the challenge.

## Career Preparation

Our Keystone Club had the privilege of job shadowing with our local Old Navy. Job shadowing provides opportunities, experience, and knowledge for joining the workforce. Keystone participants received hands on training including working and learning about the register and the stockroom. Keystone members learned about the companies' mission, brand values, history, and how to join the Old Navy team. In addition, each member received mock interviews aimed to further prepare them for career exploration. Many of our Keystone members go through the actual process of applying for open positions. Not only do they gain skills and experience, but some members get the opportunity of joining the workforce. After job shadowing, one of our club members received a call back for an actual interview and was ecstatic to report she was hired. Career Preparation is just one component of our Keystone Program that contributes towards Great Futures for our youth.

## Community Service

This summer our Keystone Club volunteered at the Brookdale Warming Center. While there, they toured the facility and learned about the positive impact the center has on the homeless community. Each member participated in passing out food and drinks during lunch time. Before the end of their visit, they had collectively decided to volunteer again. Their second visit to the center included a donation of beverages and their already looking forward to their following visit in the fall. The opportunity to engage with their community offers perspective and values for our Keystone members. Community Service is a vital part of learning to be a responsible and caring citizen.

# Upcoming

There are always ways to engage! Check out our upcoming events and visit our website for more details on sponsorships, volunteering, or attending.

## CLAY SHOOT

*with the Better Business Bureau*

Friday, August 27  
Meadows Gun Club

## THRILLER NIGHT RUN 5K

Saturday, October 30  
Luther Williams Field



## Leadership

### Board of Officers

James Frentheway, Board Chair  
Jeff Battcher, Vice Chair  
Francis Quinn Rolfes, Treasurer  
Jacquelyn Webb-Simmons, Secretary

### Board of Directors

Justin Bradley  
Renee Bumpus  
Henderson Carswell  
Verda Colvin  
Sam Henderson  
Brandon Raphael  
Robert Shoemaker  
Emmanuel Frazier, interim/proxy

### Key Staff

Phillip Bryant, President & CEO

## Stay Connected



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