



CLUB CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia

NEWS & FEATURES

A Foreground View
PAGE 1-2

Board Spotlight:
Jeff Batcher
PAGE 3

Sweet Times at the
Candler County Club
PAGE 4

A Day in the Life at
Carl D. Thomas
PAGE 5

Alumni Feature;
Dr. Keicha Owens
PAGE 6

SMART Girls to
Smart Women
PAGE 7

Upcoming
PAGE 8



A FOREGROUND VIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO PHILLIP BRYANT



It's hard to believe that we are already a quarter into the year. The world is once again becoming fast paced. The desire to capture what was lost in the last couple of years has been taking hold of communities everywhere, even at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia (BGCCG).

The partnerships and opportunities that have risen for our youth have been a blessing and an eye-opening call to our community. Every day, more people are learning about BGCCG and wanting to take part in the transformative work that we do.

This year, we were able to do something we have not done since the beginning of 2020, bring the Clubs to you. Connecting and reconnecting has been our focus for the last few months, and we have been pleased with the familiar faces just as much as the new ones. For our first quarter newsletter we wanted to offer a foreground view of what we've had going on in and out of our Clubs.



Board Spotlight, Jeff Battcher

It is important to us that our BGCCG supporters know the faces behind the mission. Beginning this quarter, we will feature one of our Board members every quarter and we're kicking off this quarter with our Board Chair.



Sweet Times at the Candler County Club

The Candler County Boys & Girls Clubs reaches the community through what has become a lovely and welcome tradition, a Sweetheart's Dance.



A Day in the Life at Carl D. Thomas Club

Our Carl D. Thomas Club highlights one of their first quarter Youth of the Month and shares the impact of their GEM and IXL Programs.



Alumni Feature, Dr. Keicha Owens

This Alumni returned to her roots to volunteer. Dr. Keicha Owens gives back to her community by teaching and tutoring at our Carl D. Thomas Club.



Smart Girls to Smart Women

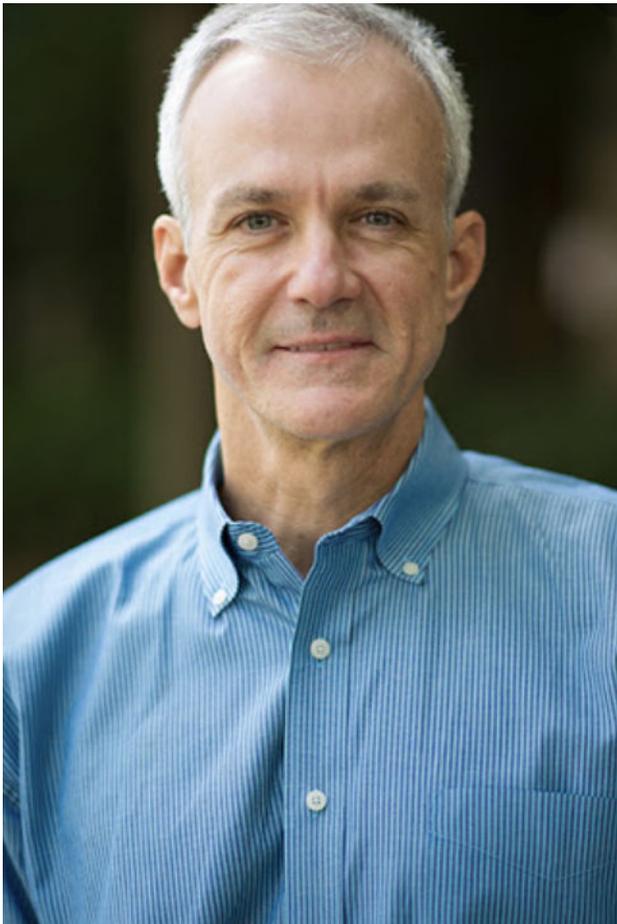
On March 25, 2022, we hosted our inaugural Rising Tide: Women's Leadership Brunch. The highly anticipated event highlighted some of Central Georgia's leading women in their field and supported our SMART Girls Program. We recapped some of the best moments from the event, including our Youth of the Year, Aliyah Simmons, the Georgia State title!

We thank each and every one of you for being a supporter of the BGCCG. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth of Central Georgia, an endeavor that would not be possible without your continued investment in our organization. We look forward to the partnerships that help us carry out our mission 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

"What sets, I believe, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia apart is the fact that we have such a direct influence on the young boys and girls through mentorship and guidance."

Jeff Battcher
Board Chair



BOARD SPOTLIGHT: JEFF BATTCHER

Jeff is the Principal of Public Relations and Communications Battcher Communications, LLC and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia's newly appointed Board Chair.

A native of Macon, Georgia, Jeff attended the University of Utah on a football scholarship, where he lettered in football and baseball. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Communications from Mercer University and an Executive MBA in Finance from Georgia State University.

Reinforcing his unwavering commitment to enriching his community, Jeff currently sits on many boards throughout the community, including of course the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia.

One of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia's core values is citizenship, a trait Jeff Battcher leads with. "Macon's my hometown, it's where I was born and it means a lot to me. That's why I invest so much time in it, because it's given me so much and it's my duty I believe to give back to this community. I'm going to continue to do whatever I can to improve it," he said.

We are grateful to Jeff for sharing his passion with us and look forward to his board leadership.

SWEET TIMES AT THE CANDLER COUNTY CLUB



An event we look forward to every year is the Candler County Boys & Girls Club Sweetheart Valentine's Dance. We not only offer it to our Club kids, but to the community as well. Children get to interact with their parents in a fun and exciting way and make new friends on the dance floor.

The Sweetheart Valentine's Dance offers a chance for Club parents to spend time at the Club and a chance to recruit new families. The event highlights the care and support we have for the youth and the community. Everyone gets to see what the Candler County Boys & Girls Clubs are about.

We love creating memorable moments between the kids and their parents. Family Engagement is a core value for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia. Our Sweetheart Valentine's Dance is just one of the many ways we bring family together in and out of the Club.

- Lawana Marlin, Candler County Unit Director



A DAY IN THE LIFE AT CARL D. THOMAS CLUB



Program, IXL

IXL learning is a personalized learning, digitized platform. Members are given a skill plan based on their weaknesses to allow them to strengthen their skills in reading, math, and science. With comprehensive K-12 curriculum, one-on-one guidance, and real-time analytics, IXL meets the unique needs of each youth at the Club. With this program our youth are provided with foundational skills that align with the common core curriculum and Georgia standards.

YOM, Haley Wynn

Haley Wynn was CDT's Youth of the Month for January. Haley is a 4th grader at Southfield Elementary School who likes to make TikToks, play with her little brother, and practice her math skills. At the Club, Haley has demonstrated sportsmanship, honesty, and leadership every day. She helps her peers with their homework and engages them with integrity. Haley embodies the Club mission and is a role model for other Club kids.



Program, GEM

GEM, Girls Empowering Movement, is a statewide initiative to increase physical activity and fitness levels of middle Georgia's middle school girls and engage their communities by taking action to implement physical activity programs that are designed by girls, for girls. During the first quarter, GEM has made mint and other fruit-infused tea, conducted a pacer test, and had meaningful conversations between the youth and supervisors.

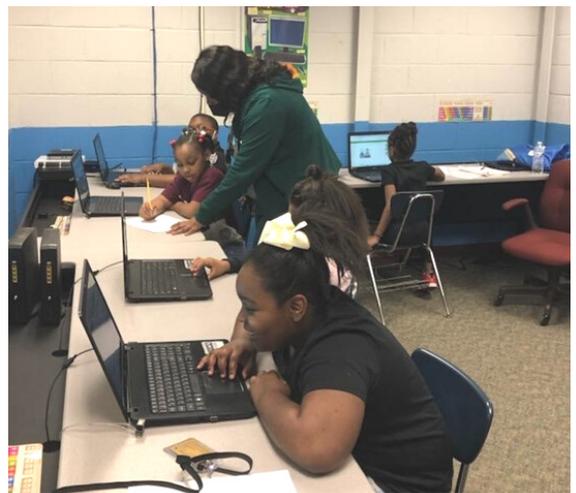
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR. KEICHA OWENS

Dr. Owens was a club member of our 2nd Street Club and a Central High School graduate, Class of '99. She attended Albany State University, where she earned a Bachelors degree in Healthcare Management. She then received a Masters in Education from the University of Phoenix and a Doctoral degree from Northcentral University. Today you can find Dr. Owens teaching at Southfield Elementary School.

IXL is a program that our Carl D. Thomas Club has recently adopted and adapted for our youth. When it came time to find someone to spearhead the Program, Dr. Owens volunteered. She was excited to be able to give back not only to her community, but to an organization that gave to her. An added bonus to building and shaping great futures is being able to work alongside her former Club Director, Mr. Hatcher.

Dr. Owens' education and experience in combination with IXL's efficient and supportive learning platform creates an encouraging and safe space for our kids to learn and grow.

This has been a great opportunity for kids who need additional help, academically, to stay on track progressing to the next grade level and graduating on time. The growth from this program will be measured for years to come, kids now have help in the academic areas they need the most support in. They have a place where they can really hone their skills, all thanks to a former Club member.



"Dr. Owens has been a tremendous help by spending her time here, at the Club, with the youth and helping them with homework, providing them with skill plans, and by guiding youth on how to incorporate positive and safe behaviors both emotionally and socially. We appreciate Dr. Owens from the bottom of our hearts!"

Harold Hatcher
Carl D. Thomas Unit Director

SMART GIRLS TO SMART WOMEN

SMART Girls is one of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia's leading youth development programs that gives girls the space, support, and tools to navigate adolescence and to emerge strong, healthy young adults. The Program provides education on:

- The emotional and physical changes associated with pre-pubescence and puberty
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle that includes a balanced diet and physical activity
- The influence of mass – and social media on attitudes toward girls and women
- Relationship management and responsibilities (romantic, platonic, familial)
- Peer pressure and bullying
- And sexual health, and pregnancy-and STD prevention; as well as information on local resources, organizations, and helplines.



Leadership. Mentorship. Brunch.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia made "herstory" hosting the first ever Rising Tide: Women's Leadership Brunch, which was hosted by Renee' Bumpus of Bumpi Group LLC and Vice Chair of our Corporate Board. We kicked off the morning surprising our Youth of the Year, Aliayah Simmons, with an increase to her local scholarship, matching the amount the state of Georgia recently awarded her as the new state youth representative. Justice Verda Colvin then delivered an inspiring keynote address that highlighted the theme of our brunch, mentorship. A panel discussion between some of Middle Georgia's leading women captured the audience, followed by workshops led by our SMART Girls members.

We came, we ate Yollah's amazing brunch, we learned a TikTok dance, but most importantly we walked away with "femtorship" added to our vocabulary.



UPCOMING

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

THE GREAT OCMULGEE RIVER DUCK RACE

Saturday, June 11
Amerson River Park

NATIONAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS WEEK

June 27 - July 3



- L** **Board of Officers**
Jeff Battcher, Board Chair
James Frentheway, Immediate Past Chair
E Renee' Bumpus, Vice Chair
Justin Bradley, Treasurer
A Phillip Bryant, Secretary
- D** **Board of Directors**
Rev. Darrius Butler
Michael Colbert
E Verda Colvin
Juan Daniels
Ros Ferrell
R Emanuel Frazier
Don Griggs
Amanda Glover
S Ivey Hall
Maria Hammett
H Sam Henderson
Canaan Marshall
I Alisha Neal
Chris Paul
Brandon Raphael
P Matt Shoemaker
Brenda Thomas
Mary Warren Brooks
Eric Wilson

- C**  WWW.BGCCG.ORG
- O**  [@BGCCGA](https://www.facebook.com/BGCCGA)
- N**  [@BOYSANDGIRLSCCG](https://www.instagram.com/BOYSANDGIRLSCCG)
- E**  INFO@BGCCG.ORG
- C**  277 MLK Jr. Blvd. Ste. 202
Macon, GA 31201
- T**  (478) 743-4153