

# **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida and Orange County Public Schools Finalize Agreement for New Parramore Facility**

*Center to be part of the innovative Downtown PS8 school in collaboration with the Rosen Foundation, UCF and Valencia College*

*January 13, 2016* – At last night's Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) school board meeting, the final agreement to build a new Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida facility was completed.

When complete in 2017, the new Club will more than triple the number of children and youth who benefit from Boys & Girls Clubs services in the Parramore neighborhood.

“Throughout our community, there are waiting lists for children and youth to become a part of our organization,” says Gary Cain, president & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida. “We currently operate with a great partnership at the Coalition for the Homeless, but children in the Parramore community have some of the greatest needs throughout Central Florida.”

The new facility is possible with a considerable contribution from the Hughes family, the founders of Hughes Supply. When complete, the facility will be 30,000 square feet. It will be designed to facilitate key youth development programs that focus on academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The Club will serve not just students of the new school, but also area high school students.

“Boys & Girls Clubs focus on serving children who have the greatest needs. We have a strong track record in breaking the cycle of poverty and opening the door to great futures for Central Florida’s youth,” Cain says. “We value our longstanding relationship with OCPS and are excited to collaborate on a campus that will meet children’s needs both during and after school. The result will be a huge step forward for the community.”

In January, OCPS and its partners in the facility announced the first-of-its-kind school to be built in the Parramore neighborhood of downtown Orlando. OCPS and community partners will collaborate on the Downtown PS8 school that addresses the needs of preschool to middle school students at one campus.

The yet unnamed school, to be built in the southwest quadrant of the Parramore Avenue and Amelia Street intersection, combines the enriching talents and treasures of OCPS, the Rosen Foundation, University of Central Florida, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, Valencia College, and the City of Orlando.

"What an incredible blessing for the children and families of Parramore," said Orange County School Board District 5 School Board Member Kathleen "Kat" Gordon, whose district encompasses the Parramore neighborhood. "I'm thrilled for these families and can't wait for the first day of school."

## **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida**

Since 1944, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has provided at-risk children from the local community, between the ages of 6 and 18, with a safe place to learn and grow. Our membership totals nearly 14,000 young people at 30 Clubs and middle school sites in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Learn more at 407.841.6855, [www.bgccf.org](http://www.bgccf.org), [facebook.com/bgccf](https://facebook.com/bgccf), or [twitter.com/bgccf](https://twitter.com/bgccf).

Contact: Alan Byrd, Alan Byrd & Associates, 407-415-8470, [Alan@ByrdConnections.com](mailto:Alan@ByrdConnections.com) or Amie Thompson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, 407-841-6855, [AThompson@bgccf.org](mailto:AThompson@bgccf.org).

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