



TUPPERWARE INSPIRES CONFIDENCE



Ky'shun and Ky'ana

Recently, Ky'shun and Ky'ana, sibling members of our Cocoa Branch, were treated to a day of hands-on product design training courtesy of Tupperware Brands Corporation. The company's product engineering department created a multi-phase exercise which allowed the aspiring engineer and architect/designer to research, conceive, design, test and manufacture a new handle to update a popular Tupperware plastic coffee cup.



Ky'shun and Ky'ana savored the challenge. "I thought everything would be super-complicated, but they showed us that there can be a simple solution to a complex problem," Ky'shun said. Noting on their way out that the impressive World Headquarters complex is actually called the "Tupperware Confidence Center," it was only fitting that the teens came away with the self-assuredness that an engineering career is within reach!

NEW BEGINNINGS

Graduating high school is an achievement worthy of celebration even in the best of circumstances. But when you've faced the economic and emotional hurdles that so many of our Club members have, graduation is a particularly notable accomplishment. At the recent New Beginnings Banquet at our Levy-Hughes Club, high school and middle school graduates from across our organization came together to celebrate their hard work with a splendid celebration. Our rising 9th graders signed pledges to stay the course and graduate high school in four years.

Congratulations to all our hard-working students!



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CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: REBECCA

Club member Rebecca, age 15, from our West Sanford Branch has the gift of helping. West Sanford Service Director Travis Knight explains, "Coming from a foster program, Rebecca understands that everyone needs love and a sense of family, and she has found that here at the Club."

"Rebecca is a bundle of joy and makes everyone smile no matter how her day is going. She is also a major help in both programming and tutoring the younger Club members," says Travis.



Rebecca

“

My Boys & Girls Club is my real family!

”

The Great Futures Gazette

Summer 2018

CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN 2018

A Triumphant Celebration!

Recipe for Celebrate the Children 2018: combine 1,000 generous community leaders, 250 bright and talented young people, a spectacular venue, fabulous food, exciting auction items and a heaping helping of goodwill.



Attendees of our May 11 gala at the Orlando World Center Marriott were treated to an inspiring evening of mission and entertainment, and in turn gave generously so that Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida can continue its important service to more than 15,000 deserving Central Florida children.



Gary Cain, President & CEO of BGCCF, remarked "Being a world-class community begins with the realization that today's children are tomorrow's adults. The support I witnessed at CTC gives me great hope for the future of our region."



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Celebrate, cont'd.

In her remarks, Event Chair Kay Rawlins, President of the Orlando City Foundation, put it simply: "A lot of people talk about helping children and breaking the cycle of poverty, but Boys & Girls Clubs works more effectively, with more children and in more locations than any other group."



We are deeply grateful to the corporate partners and donors who contributed to the evening's remarkable success, particularly our Platinum Partners!



For a full listing of our generous event partners, please visit:
www.bgccf.org/news-events/celebrate-the-children/sponsors/

JA'KEEVIOUS INSPIRES AT GALA

Attendees of Celebrate the Children were moved by the personal reflections of Ja'Keevious Mack, Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation Youth of the Year. A recent graduate of Edgewater High School, Ja'Keevious spoke about how his Joe R. Lee Club helped him cope with the tragic murder of his beloved older brother, and to succeed academically:

“

When other kids would leave school and go run around the streets, I would go to my Club. If other kids were smoking weed, drinking, or making bad choices, I would go to my Club. If I was upset about something at school or home, I always knew there would be support at my Club to point me in the right direction.

After my brother's death, my Club family had my back. They wanted to provide me with every resource they could to make sure I was alright.

More importantly, they helped me remember who I was and what my goals were.

I am proud to say, I will be the first person in my family to go to college. Next year, I will attend Rollins College, on a full scholarship, where I will study to become a lawyer and a politician. Thank you for making our dreams possible, and making mine come true!



SENIORS OF DISTINCTION

This year, we have more than 50 high school seniors who are graduating and moving on to college. Below, we spotlight just three of the remarkable young people who exemplify our core values.



IRENE DOMINIQUE

Walt Disney World Clubhouse, 8 years

Challenges overcome:

Succeeding in school in spite of prolonged bouts of homelessness and hunger

Honors:

4.39 GPA; President of Evans High School National Honor Society; recipient of We Win As One Scholarship

Favorite thing about the Club:

"My Club helped me discover that giving back to others is the source of gratitude."

Plans for future:

Attend FSU and become a pediatrician



MICHAEL THOMAS LOVING

Universal Orlando Foundation Branch, 11 years



TAMESHA MOORE

Cocoa Branch, 5 years

Challenges overcome:

"I was born to a drug-abusing mother, and never knew my father. I experienced homelessness and defeat at a young age."

Honors:

Graduated in the top 15 percent of high school class with a 3.6 GPA; Cocoa's Youth of the Year; Vice President of Keystone Club.

Favorite thing about the Club:

"Opportunities that I could only dream of; the chance to visit New York; freedom!"

Plans for future:

Attend FAMU to study biomedical engineering



WHY WE GIVE: DENISE AND MICHAEL HAMMOND

Denise and Michael Hammond aren't just supporters of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, they're apostles. Each year, the Giving Society members recruit friends to attend BGCCF's Faces of the Future Breakfast and Celebrate The Children gala, so that they too will hear the "gospel" of the organization's mission.



Michael and Denise Hammond

Why are they so convicted?

"It's easy," says Denise. "In terms of impact, there is no organization that produces the results of Boys & Girls Clubs. It's not just that they're avoiding arrest, not getting pregnant, staying off drugs. It's that these children are being equipped with the hard and soft skills that they will need to succeed in life. That's what breaks the cycle of poverty."

Denise and Michael are both lawyers, longtime Orlando residents, and have two grown children. "As parents, we realize that Boys & Girls Clubs fills that role for many needy families. The combination of loving these children enough to set expectations for them, then holding them accountable and helping them achieve—it's how we all want to parent."

Thank you, Denise and Michael, for your steadfast commitment to our community's youth!

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: WELLS FARGO

For more than 12 years, Wells Fargo Corporate Giving has partnered with BGCCF to increase education and career development programming for our Club members. Additionally, Wells Fargo supports an impactful summer event called Reality Check, an interactive day-long financial literacy experience for high school Club members. The aim is to equip teens with the knowledge they need to make prudent career, educational, financial and lifestyle choices as they approach adulthood.



Wells Fargo's philanthropic vision to help promote academic achievement among low-to-moderate income students and support college and career preparation squarely aligns with Boys & Girls Clubs' goal to keep all members on track to graduate high school with a plan for their future. Thank you, Wells Fargo, for equipping our teens with these all-important financial literacy skills!