



## JOE R. LEE CLUB WILL DOUBLE IN SIZE

April 18, 2019 was a fabulous morning of community spirit in Eatonville, where business leaders, public servants and longtime supporters gathered to celebrate the expansion of our Joe R. Lee Branch. The 14,000 sq. ft. expansion will include a dedicated teen facility with a college and career readiness center and technology lab, a full size gymnasium and dance studio. We are very fortunate to have strong community support for the project, with major capital gifts provided by Darden Restaurants, Tupperware Brands, and Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation and in-kind architectural services by SchenkelShultz. The expanded, 23,000 sq. ft. Club will serve 250 children daily, and is expected to open in November.



**"Every child, regardless of the color of their skin or how much money their parent has in the bank, should have the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential."**

U.S. Congresswoman Val Demings  
10<sup>th</sup> District of Florida



**"This organization creates more measurable benefit to society than any other nonprofit I know of."**

Kim Lopdrup, Chief Executive Officer  
Red Lobster



**"Florida Tax Watch has shown that a Boys & Girls Club member will earn over \$300,000 more than a non-member in their lifetime."**

David Odahowski, President & CEO  
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation

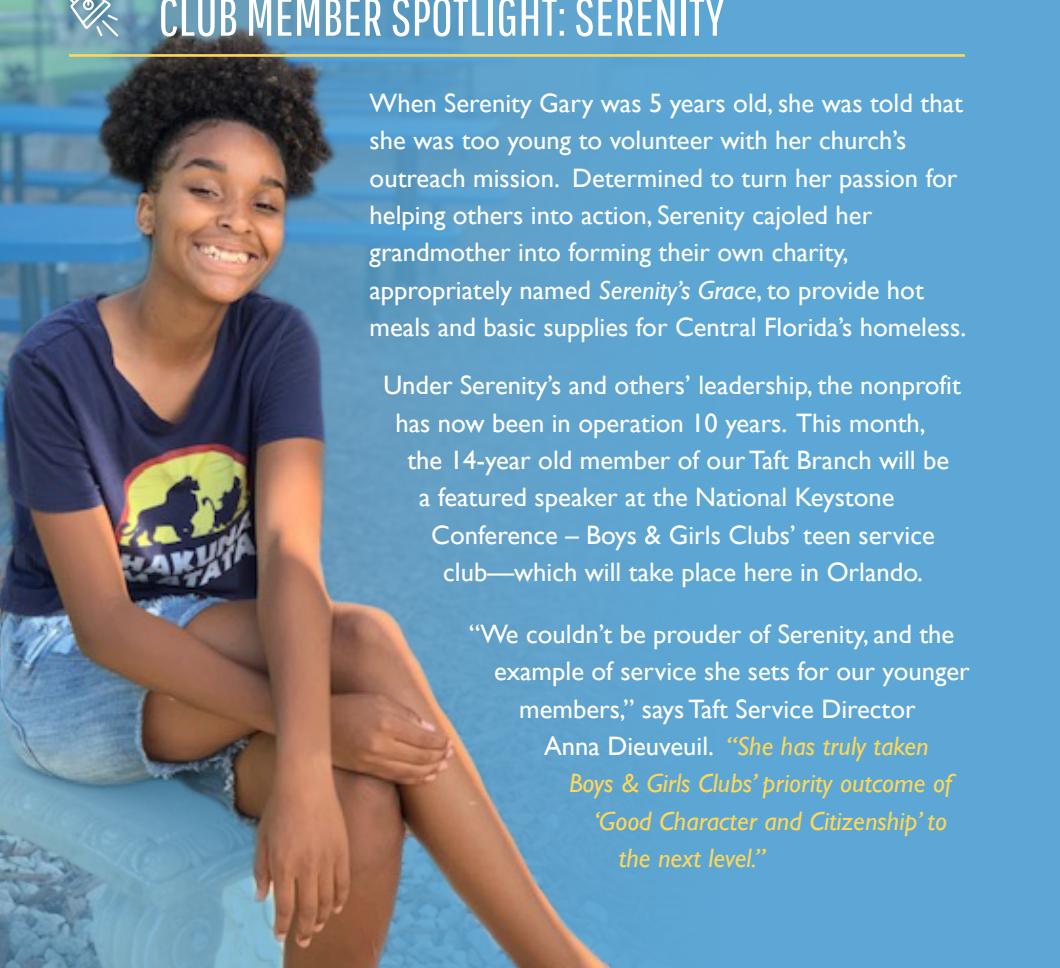


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## CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SERENITY



When Serenity Gary was 5 years old, she was told that she was too young to volunteer with her church's outreach mission. Determined to turn her passion for helping others into action, Serenity cajoled her grandmother into forming their own charity, appropriately named Serenity's Grace, to provide hot meals and basic supplies for Central Florida's homeless.

Under Serenity's and others' leadership, the nonprofit has now been in operation 10 years. This month, the 14-year old member of our Taft Branch will be a featured speaker at the National Keystone Conference – Boys & Girls Clubs' teen service club—which will take place here in Orlando.

"We couldn't be prouder of Serenity, and the example of service she sets for our younger members," says Taft Service Director Anna Dieuveuil. "She has truly taken Boys & Girls Clubs' priority outcome of 'Good Character and Citizenship' to the next level."

# The Great Futures Gazette

Summer 2019

## ★ 75 YEARS GALA SPECTACULAR

### CHILDREN, MISSION TAKE CENTER STAGE

If charity and goodwill weren't just concepts but were observable acts, they'd look like this: 75 children in colorful costumes, dancing with joyful abandon; a stage-full of successful adults expressing gratitude to the Club that had believed in them as children; a giant screen filling up with hearts, representing the financial gifts of 1,100 community leaders joining together to support society's most vulnerable members: the at-risk youth served by Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

All of these took place at the **Celebrate the Children 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**, and the outpouring of love and generosity was palpable to all who attended.



The Rosen Shingle Creek provided a splendid backdrop for the celebration, and Event Chair and Boys Club alumnus Harris Rosen summed it up thusly: **"You are here tonight because you have the confidence, as I do, that those of us who have so much – the businesses and people who have thrived in this beloved community—owe it to the children, and to our future, to reach out and help those who need it most."**

Other highlights of the program included the powerful testimony of WKMG anchor Lisa Bell, who, in her introductions of our Youth of the Year candidates stated **"With the Boys & Girls Club you can achieve anything. I absolutely would not be here today, would not be working where I'm working, if it were not for the Boys & Girls Club."**

Continue reading inside.

Celebrate, cont'd

Perhaps the emotional high point of the evening occurred when Chairman Brock Nicholas invited Club alumni from the past 75 years to take the stage. The audience cheered as scores of community leaders, including Orlando Police Chief Orlando Rolon, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and former Representative Dick Batchelor, stood together to pay tribute to BGCCF.

We are deeply grateful to the corporate partners and donors who contributed to the evening's remarkable success, particularly Presenting Sponsors Disney and National Retail Properties and Platinum Partners Morgan & Morgan, Ravago and Tupperware Brands.

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For a full listing of our generous event partners, please visit:  
[www.bgccf.org/ctcpartners/](http://www.bgccf.org/ctcpartners/)

## 2019 YOUTH OF THE YEAR: ABIGAELE CAILLOT

Attendees of Celebrate The Children were treated to an inspirational speech by Abigaelle Caillot of our Levy-Hughes Clubhouse. As the 2019 Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation Youth of the Year, Abigaelle recounted how caring adults at the Club helped her learn to cope with profound loss:

*"I vividly remember the loud sounds of metal crashing. I was in the middle of the backseat between my two cousins. My father was driving. That day, I lost the most important man of my life: my father. My best friend was gone. I had a broken femur, knee and ankle. While my bones would eventually heal, I was not sure about my heart.*

*As I continued to recover, my cousin wanted me to come with her to this place she called the Boys & Girls Club. I had no idea what I was walking into. I immediately started going every day. When my mom picked me up, I would tell her it wasn't time to go yet. All the kids welcomed me, and nobody pressured me to talk about what happened. I could just be a regular kid.*

*The most important thing my Club did for me was reintroduce me to the meaning of trust. They reminded me in moments I felt lost that I am worth more than I think I am. Because of all of these experiences in my life and at my Club, I am resilient, determined and successful. Today, I am excited for my future when before I couldn't even see one."*



# CLASS OF 2019

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



### Challenges:

Overcoming shyness and fear of public speaking

### Awards:

Citizenship & Leadership Awards  
All Honors Classes

### Favorite Club Memory:

Starting the *Pristine Young Teens Club*, and leading it as captain/dance coach

### Future Plans:

Hillsborough Community College to study Early Childhood;  
Open a Childhood Center



### Challenges:

Overcoming the death of her best friend

### Awards & Activities:

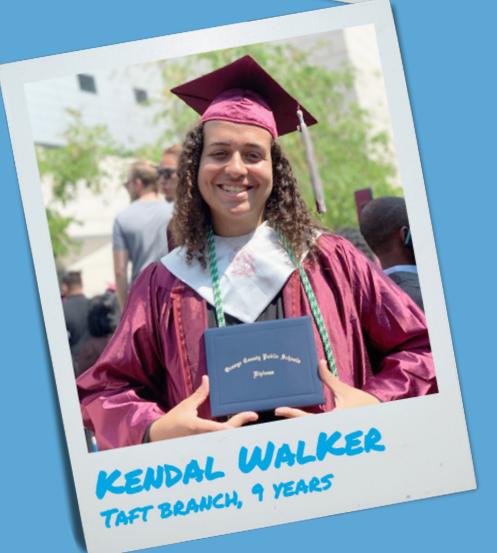
National Honor Society;  
Football & Basketball Manager

### Favorite Club Memory:

"When we all are together, it's like one big happy family!"

### Future Plans:

Rollins College, Winner of Boys & Girls Clubs Scholarship



### Challenges:

Overcoming stereotypes associated with homelessness

### Awards:

Computer Technology Award

### Favorite Club Memory:

Creating and facilitating a culinary program called *Kendal's Kitchen*, teaching teens how to make dishes with ingredients available at home

### Future Plans:

Florida Atlantic University to study Management

## WHY WE GIVE: SABRINA AND JOE CICERI

It would be difficult to find a couple doing more for Lake County children than Sabrina and Joe Ciceri. As adoptive parents of 4 foster children (and the biological parents of 2), the mission of caring for at-risk children is personal for the Ciceris.

"I've always had a heart for kids, children of single moms working multiple jobs. These children need a safe place of love, support and encouragement," says Sabrina. "But the Clubs do even more than that. They're very old-school—the kids are taught manners, politeness."



**66 This is not a day care center. They're getting educated in love.**

- Sabrina Ciceri

The owners of Electrical Works, a statewide commercial and residential wiring company, have made BGCCF the primary beneficiary of their charitable giving. "Joe and I have really seen an impact by concentrating our giving with Boys & Girls Clubs rather than spreading it around. It's so rewarding to see first-hand the difference that our contributions are making."

Sabrina is particularly excited about this year's Black & White Ball on August 10, which will benefit BGCCF's Lake County locations. Electrical Works is the title sponsor. "It's not only a really fun event – I call it 'adult prom night' – but you leave filled with hope, truly moved by the impact we're making on the lives of these children."

For more information on the Black & White Ball, including tickets, please visit:

[www.bgccf.org/bwb/](http://www.bgccf.org/bwb/)

## "SIMPLY AMAZING" REALLY IS...

We're so grateful to a new charity that has provided more than 300 art kits to our members. Susan Hietpas founded *Simply Amazing* to honor her late daughter Emily, an avid arts and crafts lover with a heart for social justice. The kits are designed not only to inspire creativity, but the projects reinforce the message that every person is endowed with unique and wonderful gifts. **Thank you, Simply Amazing!**



Joe R. Lee Club members with their creations