

Rawlins to Chair CTC 2018

We're delighted to announce that Kay Rawlins of Orlando City Soccer Club will be the Event Chair for Celebrate the Children 2018! This year's gala event will take place on Friday, May 11 at the Orlando World Center Marriott, and as in past years, will include fine dining, entertainment by our Club members, and amazing auction items!



Rawlins and friends

A 3-year member of the BGCCF Corporate Board, Rawlins said, "This annual campaign provides the lifeblood of our operations. It pays for the bus that transports these precious children from school to the Club; it pays for the staff who nurture these children every afternoon, who provide much-needed stability in their lives; it pays for field trips, and guest speakers that enrich their lives and help them envision a bright future."

For more information on how to get involved in CTC 2018, contact Pamela Sible at psible@bgccf.org, or visit our website at www.bgccf.org.



Why I Give: Jan Hommel



Anderson and Hommel

When Jan Hommel moved to Winter Park in 2012, her longtime friend and Joe R. Lee Branch Board member Jennifer Anderson wasted no time. "I was still unpacking boxes when she invited me to a Faces of the Future breakfast in Eatonville," laughs Jan.

To her own surprise, Jan found herself joining the Giving Society at the "Changing Lives" level (\$10,000+ per year for 5 years). Jan recalls, "I was just blown away by the young woman who spoke that morning, and the transformation that the Club had affected in her life." Jan, a former marketing executive, has maintained her involvement with Boys & Girls Clubs, and this year offered the lead gift at the Eatonville Fundraising breakfast. "I don't run around town handing out large checks. I like to marshal my resources where I can make a difference. My own (grown) children had so many wonderful opportunities growing up—I want to help other kids who have much less."

Thank you, Jan, for your steadfast commitment to our community's youth!

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CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Say "Hello" to Ky'Shun, 15, from our Cocoa Branch. According to his Service Director RaQuel Hinton, "Ky'Shun is a true leader at the Club, and always willing to help." Ky'Shun is involved in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in addition to his Keystone Club, and stays busy with soccer, football, basketball and track & field. In his "down time," Ky'Shun enjoys digital art and good food.



I love coming to the Club. It is a place where I can learn to be a better person, and I am able to learn new things that will give me a bright future.



The Great Futures Gazette

Winter 2017-18

Gearing Up For Growth in 2018

Dear Friends,
Benjamin Franklin knew what he was talking about when he said, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement and success have no meaning." Indeed, for our organization it's been a season of significant growth and exciting progress—and there's more on the horizon. Consider the events of just this past month.

Bradley-Otis Club Announced:

On November 8, we announced plans to build the Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis Family Branch Boys & Girls Club, in the "West Lakes" neighborhood near Camping World Stadium.



Eddy Moratin, Jacqueline Bradley, Clarence Otis and Gary Cain

We're thrilled to be partnering with Lift Orlando to help bring opportunity to a neighborhood with a rich African-American history that has fallen into profound poverty in recent decades. And we couldn't be more grateful to Jacqui and Clarence for providing the lead gift. We plan to break ground in 2018. Stay tuned!



Tasha Robinson-Banks and Jim Clark

Continue reading inside.

We're Now 35 Strong:

Also in early November, we announced that Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake & Sumter County is merging with BGCCF. We're delighted to welcome the five Lake & Sumter Clubs to the BGCCF family, and are already engaged in sharing best practices and streamlining our administrative functions. The merger will enable us to better serve the children of all 35 Clubs as the largest Boys & Girls Clubs organization in Florida. Welcome, Lake & Sumter!

Huge, Hughes News:

We ended the month with the Grand Opening, Dedication and Ribbon Cutting of our beautiful new Hughes Branch in Parramore. Because of the generosity of the Hughes family, Dr. Phillips Charities, Walt Disney World Resort and many others, we are now serving more than 250 children in Parramore daily.



Gary Cain, Brooklyn and David Hughes



Hughes Family

We were honored to be joined by BGCA President & CEO Jim Clark, who traveled from Atlanta for our special day. Jim summed up the Boys & Girls Club vision thusly: "It's all about providing access to experiences and opportunities to the children who need us most—it's called the American promise. Boys & Girls Club is the great equalizer."

As we transition from one momentous year to another, I'm filled with gratitude for the army of people in our community who support our children: our donors, staff, and volunteers. With your help, we're achieving our mission here in Central Florida, equipping the children who need us most with the confidence and skills to pursue great futures.



John Gebhardt and friends

Happy Holidays, and Best Wishes in 2018.

Gary W. Cain
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

Weathering Life's Storms

Our Faces of the Future Fundraising Breakfasts hosted throughout the fall were a resounding success! These breakfasts - held in Eatonville, Downtown Orlando, and Osceola, Seminole and Brevard Counties - presented five fabulous opportunities to share our life-changing work with more than 1,100 friends, most of whom are new to the BGCCF mission.

Each breakfast featured an inspirational youth speaker, all of whom shared how their Clubs had helped them overcome challenging life situations.

Because of the generous sponsorship of Publix Super Markets Charities, all funds raised at the breakfasts will go directly to programming! To everyone who shared in this Faces season, and to all of our faithful supporters, thank you for making this year's breakfasts so very successful.

Faces of the Future 2017

"My Boys & Girls Club has changed my world."

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I pushed back on the rules here at the Club. But the staff kept talking to me and my siblings about the Club code and what was expected. It felt like we were wanted here and cared for and safe...my Club felt like the home I have been looking for....the staff asked about my day, my grades, my feelings.....I opened up.



Diamond, 15
Tupperware Brands Branch

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My world was dark. My life was falling apart. I live in a dysfunctional family. When I came to the Club, things looked BRIGHTER. I knew this was the place I belong and need to be. The Club saved my life.



Dasia, 16
Cocoa Branch

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Because of my Club, I am no longer just the child whose parents have been in and out of jail. I am a young woman with endless potential and a great future ahead of me.

Jamesia, 14
East Altamonte Branch

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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.



Ja'Keevious, 17
Joe R. Lee Branch

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