

## OVIEDO BRANCH WELCOMES FIRST MEMBERS



Mack Reid, Alicia Hodge, Bryan Cobb, Pastor Charles Jones, Dr. Stan Stone, Jeff Chudnow, Connie & Tom O'Hanlon

On February 25, more than 200 donors, community leaders and residents gathered to unveil Seminole County's third Boys & Girls Club—in a beautifully rehabilitated building donated by the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. "The community support for this Club has been unprecedented," said Mack Reid, BGCCF's COO. "It's been heartwarming seeing people come forward to will this Club into existence, from our volunteers to financial and in-kind donors." Lead donors Tom and Connie O'Hanlon put it this way: "In 20-plus years as local community literacy and school volunteers, we have seen firsthand the acute need for Boys and Girls Clubs in Oviedo. Our new Oviedo Club will help fill in the learning gaps for kids from disadvantaged situations and low-income families. Filling in this shortfall helps Club members rise above their life's circumstances and take charge of their choices and outcomes." The new Club will eventually serve up to 60 children daily!

## MEET 14-YEAR-OLD CI'MIYA OF OUR COCOA BRANCH!

### CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

#### FAVORITE THING TO DO AT MY CLUB

To practice my photography in different locations around the Club. I've even developed a business plan to become a photographer!

#### ABOUT MY CLUB

I wish every child could go to a Boys & Girls Club, because the Club provides you with the skills you need to be great and bring your dreams to reality!

#### MY FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS ...

- Ambitious
- Outspoken
- Confident

#### THINGS I LOVE

- Christian singer Koryn Hawthorne
- The TV show "All American"
- The color gold
- Photography



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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Syd & Marianne Levy Service Center  
101 E. Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32801

**Celebrate**  
THE CHILDREN  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY  
Disney NATIONAL RETAIL PROPERTIES

**GET ENCHANTED**  
APRIL 30, 2021

For the children we serve, the world can be a place of harsh realities. But behind the Blue Doors at our Clubs, children enter a "garden" where their imaginations take root, and their dreams grow as tall as the sky. Re-experience the magic of childhood in our *Garden of Wonder*, where great futures are grown.

Visit [www.bgccf.org/ctc](http://www.bgccf.org/ctc) to learn more about this year's gala.



Great Futures  
Gazette

Spring/Summer 2021



## BRADLEY-OTIS FAMILY BRANCH READY TO SERVE

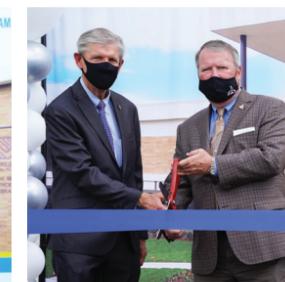
Attendees at our March 12 Grand Opening of the Jacqueline Bradley & Clarence Otis Family Branch had the feeling of witnessing history, so impactful were the program and the words spoken there. Given that the groundbreaking, construction, and ribbon-cutting took place as a global pandemic raged around us, the Club stands as a monument to determination and the community's commitment to the children of the West Lakes neighborhood.



Jacqueline Bradley & Clarence Otis



Club Members Bella & Millie



Gary Cain & Mayor Buddy Dyer



BGCA President, Jim Clark

More than 200 supporters gathered both in person and online to celebrate the opening of the Club that will serve up to 250 children per day. The state-of-the-art, 30,000 sq. ft. facility, designed pro-bono by SchenkelShultz Architecture, features a dance/aerobic studio, commercial kitchen, music rooms, art studios, technology labs on both floors, and a full-size gymnasium with a stage for performances. Teen Club members will have the run of the building's expansive second floor, complete with a teen lounge and college and career center.

Continue reading inside

## “WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO LIBERATE A CHILD’S SPIRIT, YOU MUST.”

Jacqueline Bradley

Bradley-Otis Family Branch Cont’d

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer told attendees, “the children who attend this Club will be Orlando’s next generation of doctors, judges, engineers, maybe even politicians! When we nurture our youth, we not only provide for our community’s future, we prevent a whole host of potential social and economic problems.”

But perhaps the most enthusiastic endorsement came from Millie Donald-Stanley, who with her twin sister, Bella, watched the construction of the Club from the window of her apartment, across the street.

“Everyone at school, we’re all excited. We can’t wait!” she said.

Heartfelt thanks to all our investors for making this dream a reality for the children of West Lakes, particularly our founding donors Jacqueline Bradley & Clarence Otis, Darden Restaurants Foundation, SchenkelShultz Architecture, Walt Disney World Resort, Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation, Harold & Rosy Mills, Tom & Jayne Sittema, Linda J. Dimopoulos, Kim & Cathy Lopdrup, Brasfield & Gorrie, BBM Structural Engineers, TLC Engineering, Klima Weeks, Gene & Amy Lee, and CNL Financial Group.

## WHY WE GIVE

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. MAEN HUSSEIN & MICHELLE VIVEIROS

“When we think about giving, we have two passions—cancer charities and children’s charities,” says Lake County medical oncologist and BGCCF supporter Dr. Maen Hussein. “Both provide hope for the future.”

It was hearing a Club member testimony at the Black & White Ball a few years back that first ‘hooked’ Dr. Hussein and his wife, Michelle Viveiros, on the life-changing work of Boys & Girls Clubs.



“There’s a lot of economic inequality in our area, and the Club really helps level the playing field—not by just giving children things, but by providing them the tools they need to help themselves.”

Hussein recently served as a judge of BGCCF’s Youth of the Year competition. “It was a very difficult decision,” he said of helping to choose the winner. “These young people were so emboldened by what they had experienced at the Clubs. Each one had discovered the power within to do good things.”

In fact, it wouldn’t surprise the good doctor if one or more of the candidates has what it takes to join his oncology practice, Florida Cancer Specialists, one day.

“And I’d hire them in a minute,” he said.

## KIWANIS CLUB OF ORLANDO FOUNDATION

# 2021 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

This year’s competition brought forward a diverse, articulate, and accomplished group of teen finalists, but only one could be named the **Kiwanis Club of Orlando Foundation Youth of the Year**. This year’s winner, Tyler A. of our Walt Disney World Clubhouse, is a true Renaissance Man: he has a 4.8 GPA, competed in the Junior Olympics in fencing, and operates a shoe customizing business. Here, our finalists share excerpts from their life stories:

### TYLER A.

WALT DISNEY WORLD CLUBHOUSE, EVANS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

**Future Goal: Engineering**

“When I came in 6th grade, I was a 4’9” hyperactive nerd geek. I loved anime and comic books. And Mr. Denmore actually formed a Club for kids like me called ‘Geek Force.’ We do comic book debates, anime debates; he took us to the movies, to conventions, he’s been one of my biggest mentors here. The college counselors here at Boys & Girls Clubs, Miss Suzanne and Miss Jennifer, they’re like my two best friends. I was so blind about the whole college admission thing, and they’ve helped me so much. It’s such a huge process. People talk about Senior-itis—but I’ve got the opposite of that! This is the hardest I’ve ever worked, in 3 years combined. I have 5 AP’s. I’m applying to 17 colleges.”

Congrats  
Tyler!



### SHAVON P.

COCOA BRANCH, ROCKLEDGE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR

**Future Goal: Forensic Pathologist**



“I’ve learned to be spontaneous, and do a lot of different things. I love to read. My favorite series are ‘The Testing’ and the Percy Jackson series. Music is also a big thing for me. I’ve learned to play lots of instruments—I play the piano, the organ, the alto saxophone, the clarinet and the violin. The first ones I learned were the keyboard and violin, starting in 3rd grade. My favorite is the piano—it can express so many different sounds. My favorite music to play is classical, especially Beethoven—it’s so emotional—the crescendos and decrescendos! And at my school, I compete in shotput and discus.”

### ELENA P.

TUPPERWARE BRANDS BRANCH, OSCEOLA HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR

**Future Goal: Airline Pilot**



“My Latin culture is a very important part of who I am. My dad was born and raised in El Salvador and my mom was born and raised in Ecuador. My parents have given me opportunities that they didn’t have. To have an education, to always have a roof over my head. I appreciate everything that they’ve given me, even if it’s something as small as a pencil! I sometimes feel pressure. My parents have a lack of education, no one has ever been to college in my family. It’s made me aim, not only to go to college, but to show my mom that she raised me right, that she will be proud of me. That the sacrifices that they’ve made for me have been worth it.”

### FAITH L.

TEMPLE TERRACE BRANCH, EAU GALLIE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

**Future Goal: Air Force**

“One of the best things I’ve done is to be a mentor at the Club. I told Miss Ruby I wanted to work with the younger kids, and she said “let’s give it a shot!” and it took off from there. Nathan really struggled with his subtracting, and I’ve been able to help him. At first it was hard for me to get inside his mind, to get on his level. But something really clicked with us – and he prefers me teaching him to anyone else. He’ll focus for me. And he’s really learned a lot. It’s been one my favorite things—when I see I’m impacting a kid’s life, it makes my heart melt.”



### DEVON N.

NE LAKE CLUB, EUSTIS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

**Future Goal: Air Force**



“10 years from now, I want to be in my Air Force career, doing a job I want to do. I’ll be reaching my goals and setting new goals. I’ll be almost 30. That’s pretty old. No offense! I hope I’ll be traveling the world and doing what I want to do. I want to visit all 7 continents. People say, you even want to go to Antarctica? Sure! I don’t have to stay long.”