

**CLUB**

# CONNECTION

**WINTER 2022**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF CENTRAL ORANGE COAST**

Costa Mesa | Irvine | Newport Beach | Orange | Santa Ana

[www.boysandgirlsclub.com](http://www.boysandgirlsclub.com)



Corporate Headquarters: 17701 Cowan, Suite 110, Irvine, CA 92614



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO ROBERT SANTANA

## WHEN WE ARE INSPIRED...

... WE INSPIRE OTHERS. I am constantly inspired by the undeniable potential, resilience and integrity of our Club members. And I am grateful that through support from our volunteers, donors, staff and community partners, we are able to do whatever it takes to make sure each child and teen we serve will receive a first-class mentoring experience and the support they need to succeed – regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or obstacles they face.

As we continue to adapt to the rising needs of our youth, our Club remains committed to innovation, adaptability and flexibility. **This year, we aim to broaden the reach of our holistic and empowering programming to reach those who fall through the cracks of service in our community.** However, we understand that it is not enough to simply serve more youth; we must invest strategically to ensure equity of access, opportunity and resources.

While there is no way of knowing what the future holds, I do know that our Club will continue to address the unique challenges facing our youth through academic enrichment and socioemotional support. I do know we will continue to provide resources that strengthen the entire family unit. **Above all, I know our impact is stronger together. Thank you for joining us in inspiring the future leaders of our community to pursue greatness.**



Robert Santana, CEO

OUR MISSION: To ensure every child has mentors and champions in life.



## JOIN OUR CHAMPION'S CLUB!

BY BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR, YOU:

1. Make a lasting impact
2. Are part of the Club's growth
3. Help those who need us most

**Scan the QR code** below to learn how you can maximize your impact and help our youth pursue greatness.





Mentor Professional assisting Santa Ana Club member in math assignment provided by **Teacher Created Materials**

## FEATURE STORY

# Helping Break the COVID-19 Academic Gap

OUR GOAL AS AN ORGANIZATION IS TO HELP YOUTH REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL by ensuring they have access to the tools they need to pursue greatness. We believe every child, no matter his or her circumstances or background, needs mentors and champions; and it is our privilege to invest in opportunities and resources our youth need to help them unlock their greatest potential.

In an effort to tackle the academic achievement gap youth face, we introduced our Early Literacy Program in 2014 to strengthen and build literacy skills in K-3rd grade students. **This program addresses the literacy gap by meeting students at their current literacy level** using a curriculum that helps participants develop phonics, fluency, and comprehension skills.

In the 2018-2019 school year, a partnership with Santa Ana Unified School District allowed us to serve 875 students, K-3rd grade, at 11 schools who were not reading at grade level. Of the students served, 27% made strategic improvements in reading at grade level, and 93% showed measurable growth in their literacy and phonics skills.

Unfortunately, the program had to

stop serving students in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions for in-person support at local schools. However, the need for support has grown dramatically higher since then. **Studies show that current 3rd-grade students (who were kindergarteners when the pandemic began) have the largest reading achievement gap,** and at least 23% of students have decreased in math achievement.

Through a new partnership with Teacher Created Materials (TCM), we are reintroducing our Early Literacy program in an **Academic Reinforcement Program that will offer both literacy and math support to students that are in need.** A soft launch will begin in January to serve approximately 37 K-4th grade students in our Santa Ana Club, and full program implementation to occur at the start of the new school year in August with the goal to serve 400 students in our partner schools in Orange Unified School District.

Students participating in the program will be placed in small groups with others in the same skill level with a student-to-teacher ratio of 8:1. Groups will meet twice a week with our trained Mentor Professionals who guide them through the reading

and math curriculum provided by TCM. On average, most students stay in the program for three years, significantly improving their literacy and math skills.

**“WE’RE HONORED TO PARTNER WITH TEACHER CREATED MATERIALS IN OUR EFFORTS TO CLOSE THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP. TCM HAS PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE BY PROVIDING MATERIALS THAT INSPIRE A LOVE FOR LEARNING & A SPARK FOR CURIOSITY.”**

**— Robert Santana, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast**

To make our vision of youth achieving their greatest potential a reality, we must address the academic achievement gap and remove as many barriers to literacy and math enrichment as possible.

To learn more about our Academic Reinforcement Program or make a long-lasting impact on the children and community we serve – one child and one word at a time – please contact David Blair, Director of Philanthropy Corporate at [dblair@boysandgirlsclub.com](mailto:dblair@boysandgirlsclub.com) or (714) 543-5540, ext. 307.





## REDUCE YOUR TAXES & MAKE A **LASTING IMPACT** WITH AN IRA GIFT

YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR TAXES BY MAKING A GIFT TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL ORANGE COAST FOUNDATION. If you are 70 1/2 years or older, you can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity, free from federal income tax. Better yet, an IRA rollover gift qualifies for your required minimum distribution, permitting you to **lower your income and taxes for this year while helping the children and teens we serve in our community.**

To learn more, contact:

**Travis Whitten,**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer  
twhitten@boysandgirlsclub.com  
(714) 543-5540, ext. 302

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Kohl's Department Stores

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL ORANGE COAST is honored to receive a \$50,000 gift from Kohl's Department Stores to support the work we do to serve our communities. This strategic investment significantly increases the financial impact Kohl's has made on a local level.

For three years Kohl's has been a national supporter of our Club through their Kohl's Cares giving program – a program that allows customers to purchase merchandise with 100% of the net profit going to support children's health and education initiatives, initiatives like the ones our Boys & Girls Club provides.

In 2021, our local partnership with Kohl's deepened when their Senior Vice President-Territory Manager, Peter Riley, joined our Board of Directors. Since then, Kohl's has supported our Club in a variety of ways.

From supporting our BE GREAT Gala to volunteerism for the Bruery

Anniversary event, multiple food distributions, and even in-kind donations, they have championed our Club and the youth we serve.

The collective impact Kohl's and our Club had on our community was recognized as Peter Riley was given the Board Extra Mile Award last Fall.

**“IT'S AN HONOR TO SERVE ON THE CLUB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. I'M INCREDIBLY PROUD OF KOHL'S STRONG NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA – FOCUSED ON PROVIDING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS AND SUPPORTIVE MENTORS WHO CULTIVATE EMOTIONAL WELLNESS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES. KOHL'S HAS A LONG HISTORY OF HELPING FAMILIES AND A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES WE SERVE, SO IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF THE**

# KOHL'S

**IMPORTANT WORK THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB DOES TO SUPPORT TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR AREA.”**

**—Peter Riley, Sr. Vice President,** Kohl's Department Store

The partnership between Kohl's Department Stores and our Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast is a prime example of how businesses can make a positive impact on their communities through philanthropy and volunteerism.

To learn how YOUR company can partner with the Club, contact Director of Philanthropy, David Blair at dblair@boysandgirlsclub.com or by phone at (714) 543-5540 ext. 307.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHT

# Bringing Joy during the Holiday Season

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY AND SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER. FOR OVER 20 YEARS, our Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast has brought joy to our communities during our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Club and Winter Wonderland events, and this year was no different.

Not only do we have our annual events at our Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana Joe MacPherson Center for Opportunity, but we also brought joy and made an impact to families from our partner school sites in Orange and Newport-Mesa.

This Thanksgiving season, our blessings were bountiful, and in a valued community tradition for our Santa Ana families, *over 450 individuals* received a fully-cooked, family-style Thanksgiving Dinner with all of the trimmings. During this special evening, our families were treated to a first-class dining experience and even had a special surprise from our friends Derwin James from the Los Angeles Chargers and the Orange County Soccer Club.

Support from our community partners for the Thanksgiving Dinner campaign allowed us to provide an additional *945 meals to individuals in our Orange and Costa Mesa communities, for a total of 1,426 individuals served during the season of thanks!!!*

During our Winter Wonderland event in Santa Ana, *over 500 children* experienced the magic of the holiday season. Each child created their own ornament in Mrs. Claus' Art Studio, picked their favorite toy in Santa's workshop, and was even surprised to take home a picture with Jolly old St. Nick and Mrs. Claus!

And thanks to our friends from the Kiwanis Club of Orange and the Newport-Balboa Rotary Club, students in our Orange and Newport-Mesa school sites received a special visit from



Santa and a new toy!

Toy donations and support from our community partners made an impact to over *1,000 children this holiday season.*

To top it off, 75 of our Santa Ana Club members were surprised with new toys from Derwin James and 95 families received a Christmas Food Box filled with food for the holidays and other necessities thanks to the Noble Vikings Charities of Orange County.

Thank you to every partner, volunteer, and individual who helped us make our holiday events successful. With your support, 2,582 individuals were impacted during the holidays!

Some of this year's partners and volunteers for our holiday events include Argyros Family Foundation, CU Direct, Hyundai Capital America, loanDepot, Netwatch North America, Pacific Life, PIMCO, Swinerton, and members from our Board of Directors.

On behalf of the more than 9,000 youth we serve, THANK YOU to every supporter, partner, and volunteer who has helped contribute to our Club's growth and success.

If you were unable to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner at the Club and Winter Wonderland there are still ways for you to support and make an impact. Scan the QR code to make a gift or contact David Blair, Director of Philanthropy, Corporate at [dblair@boysandgirlsclub.com](mailto:dblair@boysandgirlsclub.com)





# CALENDAR

# SPRING



FEB 1 5 10 15 20 25 28

MAR 1 5 10 13 19 25 31

**WOMEN OF GREATNESS  
BRUNCH & BUBBLY**  
3/19



APR 1 5 10 15 20 24 25 30

MAY 1 5 11 15 20 25 31

**CHAMPIONS  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
5/11

JOIN US FOR

# BRUNCH & BUBBLY

**Sunday, March 19, 2023** | 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Balboa Bay Resort** | 1221 West Coast Hwy,  
Newport Beach

*An event hosted by*  
**WOMEN OF  
GREATNESS**

  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF CENTRAL ORANGE COAST**  
Costa Mesa | Irvine | Newport Beach | Orange | Santa Ana