

BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER HOUSTON

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston Newsletter

Fall 2017

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friend,

As the holiday season approaches, we remember all we have overcome in the past months and look to the future with gratefulness. While our city experienced many hardships, we continue to do our part in helping youth and families recover after Hurricane Harvey. Our BGCGH family now stands taller than before.

In these challenges, the foundation we have set for our Club members proves to us that our mission is still as strong as ever. We have seen our city slowly rebuilding as we have stayed firm in our Club members' lives when they truly needed us the most.

As we approach Thanksgiving, a time of year when we celebrate family and love, you can change the life of a child by giving a gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston today. Join with us as we continue to **(Re)Build to Ensure Great Futures**.



Kevin R. Hattery, President & CEO

GREAT FUTURES DINNER CELEBRATING BGCGH'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Dinner honors Maureen and John Graf

The Great Futures Dinner was held on Thursday, September 21st at the Marriott Marquis and raised almost \$780,000 for our 14 Clubs. This year's dinner honored **Maureen and John Graf** and was chaired by **Beth and Craig Lieberman and Waverly and Adam Peakes**. **Leslie and Jack Blanton, Cam and Rod Canion, Mary Martha and Joel Staff**, and **Carla and Steve Strake** were the Honorary Chairs, and KPRC Channel 2's **Syan Rhodes** emceed the event with KIPP Sunnyside Club member **Christian Gladney**.



Adam Peakes, Maureen and John Graf, and Kevin Hattery

To celebrate BGCGH's 65th anniversary, birthday cakes and birthday cards were the centerpieces, and Club members entered the ballroom dancing to "Uptown Funk". A heartwarming video of BGCGH's response to Hurricane Harvey was shared before **Katherine Garcia**, 2017 Youth of the Year, spoke about how the Boys & Girls Club helped her to become a first-generation college student, a school leader, and maintain a 4.13 GPA all while her family experienced financial instability and homelessness. **Mayor Sylvester Turner** also spoke about the resilience of Houstonians and the importance in investing in our youth. We had both a live and silent auction, where fabulous trips and unique experiences were bid on by guests.

We are extremely grateful to our top sponsors: **BBVA Compass, Maureen and John Graf, The Holthouse Foundation for Kids, Sysco Corporation, and Taco Bell Foundation**. We look forward to seeing you next year at the 30th annual Great Futures Dinner!

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HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

On Friday, August 25th, Houston and surrounding cities faced one of the most catastrophic hurricanes to hit our community in many years. With more than 50 inches of rain in a 48-hour period, Houstonians experienced incredibly devastating flooding.

BGCGH staff responded immediately by doing what we always have - supporting youth and families by providing a safe haven with impactful programs.

- On Friday, September 1st, we opened five of our Clubs, and opened four more on Labor Day, Monday, September 4th. This gave over 400 parents and families the time to recover and go back to work knowing that their children were in a safe, happy environment since schools were closed that week.



Allen Parkway Club members getting back to fun after the storm!

- We served over 100 youth daily in pop-up Clubs at the NRG Center shelter throughout September.

- In addition to waiving the membership fee for our programming, we provided food and water, clothing, school supplies, shoes, and games for our families.

- We began repairing Clubs damaged by Hurricane Harvey so that we could continue to serve Greater Houston's youth most in need, including our Stafford Club, which completely flooded and lost all of its furniture, equipment, vans and supplies.

Here are a few of the generous donations we received:

- MLB, DPR Construction, Steelcreek Management, Peyton List, Denver Broncos, BGCA, Texas Mutual Insurance and hundreds of other individuals and corporations donated funds for relief for our youth and families.

- Toyota donated 11 vehicles to BGCGH (29 to all Boys & Girls Clubs affected by the Hurricane). Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) coordinated this generous donation.
- Target, Chris Paul, Wells Fargo, Bain & Company, Academy Sports + Outdoors and many others donated supplies, clothes, food, shoes and other in-kind needs to BGCGH after the Hurricane.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Dallas (BGCGD) Board member George S. Watson of SteelCreek Management donated \$50,000 to BGCGH for Hurricane Harvey relief. He is pictured here with Havard Club members; Charles English, President & CEO of BGCGD; and Kevin Hattery, Susy Smith and Zena Campbell of BGCGH.

We are still in need of vans to transport our youth and teens from school to the Club as many of our vehicles were flooded in Hurricane Harvey. If you can donate or have a connection to a car dealership, please contact **Susy Smith**, VP of Development, at ssmith@bgcgh.org.

We are proud of our response, but we know the journey to recovery for our families and our Clubs has only just begun. Your ongoing support is critical as we continue to provide a safe, positive and educational opportunity for youth and teens who need us most.



Rebuilding the Stafford Boys & Girls Club



Kevin Hattery with Jim Clark, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Michael Groff, President & CEO of Toyota Financial Services and BGCA Board member after announcing Toyota was donating 29 cars to Texas Boys & Girls Clubs.

FORT BEND COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

Successful Tournament Benefits Three Fort Bend County Clubs

The second annual Fort Bend County Sporting Clays Tournament took place on Tuesday, October 3rd at the Greater Houston Gun Club. **Cynthia Barratt** and **Kevin Zlotnik** were the Co-Chairs, and **Spark Energy** was the Tournament Sponsor. This event raised \$100,000 for our three Fort Bend County Clubs: the Fort Bend Club, the Richmond-Rosenberg Club and the Stafford Club.



Susy Smith and Mike Kuznar

- The day started at noon with lunch donated by **Mikki's Soul Food Café**, and the shoot began at 1:30 p.m. with 78 players.
- **Academy Sports + Outdoors** donated the ammunition, giveaways and prizes for the tournament.
- Throughout the day, players enjoyed water and soft drinks donated by **Minute Maid**.
- After the shoot, players enjoyed wings donated by **Buffalo Wild Wings – Richmond** and beverages donated by **Silver Eagle Distributors**. A silent auction and Annie Oakley shootout also ended the day.



Darlene Hatfield, Louisa Anchondo and Sarah Rackel

Thank you to all of our in-kind and team sponsors. Special thanks to our Tournament Sponsor, **Spark Energy**; our Golf Cart Sponsor, **OCuSOFT**; and our Platinum Sponsors, **Lynette and Mike Kuznar** and the **Sugar Land Skeeters**. We will see you next year at the 2018 Tournament on Friday, November 16th, 2018 at the Greater Houston Gun Club. To get involved with the Fort Bend County Boys & Girls Clubs or the Sporting Clays Tournament, please contact **Nick Cantu**, Fort Bend County Director, at ncantu@bgcgh.org or 281-232-7632.

ASTROS FOUNDATION DONATES \$50,000 TO BCGGH

On Friday, June 16th, the **Astros Foundation** and **AT&T SportsNet Southwest** hosted their second annual Astros Foundation Charity Game and live broadcast at Minute Maid Park against the Boston Red Sox. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and USO Houston were the two beneficiaries of this event. Both charities received \$50,000 from the sales of VIP Charity, MVP and Cooperstown bags.



The Astros Foundation presents BGCCH and USO Houston with checks for \$50,000.

Thank you to the Astros Foundation for the incredibly generous donation and for supporting youth who need us most!

BGCGH PARTNERS WITH TEXAS CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN

We are proud to announce that on Friday, September 1st, BGCGH began a long-term, strategic partnership with Texas Children's Health Plan. With a generous donation of \$300,000, TCHP is the official sponsor of BGCGH's Membership Matters initiative. Ten membership and welcome centers in our Clubs were selected and rebranded with TCHP's logo and signage.

With this partnership, Texas Children's Health Plan members ages 6 to 12 can attend a Club at no cost to their families. We are so excited about this partnership and look forward to working with Texas Children's Health Plan!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS!

Conn's HomePlus Hero Event

Conn's Cares took place on Friday, August 11th at our Jim & Barbara Morefield Club. This event celebrated Houston's heroes by teaming up with a caravan of ice cream trucks to make pop-in deliveries to firefighters, police officers, youth counselors, animal caretakers, the Boys & Girls



Morefield Club members enjoy treats from Conn's HomePlus.

Club and a Veterans organization.

Volunteers handed out treats to Club members, staff and volunteers, who then sent off the Conn's team to continue the caravan. Thank you, Conn's!

Harden Gives Back

During the weekend of August 18-20, **James Harden** hosted the inaugural JH-Town Weekend with proceeds going to the James Harden Foundation Lucky 13 Experience. To kick off the weekend, Harden handed out backpacks to over 150 Club members at the John & Cissy Havard Club. Harden then hosted a charity basketball game at Rice University with celebrity players and invited Club members and their families to attend at no cost.



James Harden passes out backpacks to Club members.

The Lucky 13 Experience is a program that matches Houston high school students on track to being first generation college students with year-long internships. 10 of the 13 interns this year are Boys & Girls Club members. We are grateful that these members are a part of the Lucky 13 Experience, where they will gain job skills, be mentored and prepare for the college experience. Thank you, James Harden, for investing in Houston's youth and teens!

Texans Players Visit Club Members after Hurricane Harvey

On Friday, September 1st, **Houston Texans** players and **Toro** stopped by the John & Cissy Havard Club to hang out with our youth after Hurricane Harvey.

The players played basketball, made cards for first responders, and enjoyed pizza with Club members. Thank you, Houston Texans, for bringing so much excitement and joy by surprising our Club members with this visit!



Houston Texans players enjoy pizza with Havard Club members.



Toro helps Club members make cards for first responders.

Donated Backpacks Prepare Club Members for School Year

Thank you to **Academy Sports + Outdoors, Spark Energy, DPR Construction, Marsh, Pappas Restaurants, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Gap, 3 the Harden Way** (James Harden's foundation), for generously donating 4,500 backpacks filled with school supplies for our Club members!



A Spring Branch Club member with her new backpack and school supplies from Spark Energy

Academy donated over \$3,000 to fill these backpacks with general sporting equipment at our Back-to-School Bash, and DPR Construction donated lunch boxes, snack packs and many other resources for over 150 kids. Spark Energy generously donated supplies to our Spring Branch Club members who received 100 backpacks full of supplies and 100 lunch kits. Thanks for preparing our youth to go back to school in style!

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