



BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR



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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Club Champion,

The first 75 days of calendar year 2020 had us off to a great start, then the public health crisis and stay-at-home orders changed the landscape for all of us. Even under these difficult circumstances, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston (BGCGH) has kept its promise to serve as many kids and teens as possible in the best ways possible. Since the onset of the pandemic, BGCGH has coordinated Drive-Thru Food Pantries at multiple locations for tens of thousands of families; conducted Family Wellness Check-Ins with thousands of Club members; and have launched virtual learning platforms to support youth in their academic needs while schools are shuttered. BGCGH continues to identify ways to serve families until it is safe to have kids at our Clubs. At a later date, BGCGH will share a report that is dedicated to describing our services and the impact they have made for families. In the meantime, I would like to share some highlights from the first 75 days:

- Julius Young's tenure as the Chair of the BGCGH Board of Directors began in January. In addition to being an experienced leader and financial services executive, Julius is the first African American and the first "Club Alum" to serve in this role for BGCGH. We are excited for this tenure and look forward to what will be accomplished under his leadership.
- The Harris County – Houston Sports Authority invited Club kids to participate in the Fan Zone of the awards gala in January. This was a great experience for our members, as they had the opportunity to engage with the award nominees and sports figures. Additionally, our mascot "Blue" got in on the fun and shared time on the red carpet with other local professional sports team mascots and athletes. *(continued on page 2)*





LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO (CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE)



- In early March, we participated in Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Days of Advocacy in Washington, DC. Boys & Girls Club volunteer leadership and senior staff engaged in hundreds of meetings with lawmakers to gain support for the Workforce Readiness Act, which will provide critical funding for programming – especially for teens, among other important federally funded programs.

Although the public health crisis has caused a temporary adjustment in our traditional programming and services, I am confident we will continue to achieve the outcomes we want for the Club kids and teens and maintain the positive progress we made in the first 75 days of this calendar year. We are grateful to all of our donors and partners who are standing beside us in doing whatever it takes to build great futures for kids!

Sincerely,
Kevin R. Hattery
President & CEO

Houston Sports Awards Ceremony

In January, BGCCH Club Members had the unique opportunity to participate in the Houston Sports Authority Fan Zone at the 2020 Houston Sports Awards. The Houston Sports Awards was created in 2018 by the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority to celebrate the most accomplished athletes, coaches, teams, contributors and moments in the Houston Sports Community. Over 300 Club Members attended the event. Members were able to cheer and greet prominent Houston sports figures along the red carpet, including five-time Olympic medalist Mary Lou Retton, former Houston Rockets player and coach Rudy Tomjanovich and four-time Olympian Carl Lewis.



Club Members and "Blue" cheer on Houston sports figures along the red carpet



Club Staff and Members are interviewed by ABC News at the Houston Sports Awards

Lemonade Day Kids Pitch Event

In February, four BGCCH Club members participated in the Lemonade Day Kids Pitch Event at Station Houston. Members spent the week working with Kim Roxie, Founder & CEO of LAMIK Beauty, to create their very own small business! At the event, Club members pitched their business to judges for a chance to win a prize. Lemonade Day began in Houston back in 2007 as a way to empower youth by teaching them how to start, own and operate their own business.



Club Members at the Lemonade Day Kids Pitch Event in February



2020 BGCGRH Youth of the Year Announced



Leyha Williams, 2020 Youth of the Year

BGCGRH is proud to announce that **Leyha Williams**, a member of the Johnny Mitchell Club in Galveston, was named 2020 Youth of the Year at the annual Youth of the Year (YOY) dinner held Feb. 19 at the Junior League of Houston. Houston Texans' **Jacob Martin** served as keynote speaker and MIX 96.5's **Jason Cage** was the emcee for the evening. The Youth of the Year program, sponsored by Chevron, honors and celebrates inspiring teens and their incredible journeys and is based on outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle.



2020 YOY Candidates and Jacob Martin at the Youth of the Year Dinner

More than 250 attendees, including BGCGRH board members, staff and supporters, also got to hear from BGCGRH's top three YOY candidates: **Leyha Williams** and **Robert Ellis III** from the Johnny Mitchell Club and **Gregory Robinson** from the Allen Parkway Club. Each gave inspiring speeches about their personal journeys with BGCGRH. At the end of the night, Leyha Williams was named the 2020 Youth of the Year!



Robert Ellis (left) and Gregory Robinson (right) giving their speeches at the Youth of the Year Dinner

Leyha went on to compete in the state Youth of the Year competition in March and received a \$5,000 scholarship which she will use for Howard University, where she plans to study public relations. Her ultimate goal is to be a public interest attorney and a U.S. Congresswoman. Williams, who describes herself as eager and empathetic, shared how important she feels mentoring is to youth. "The improvement of our nation lies not within the hands of our youth, but in those who are educating them."

A special thank you to Chevron for sponsoring the 2020 Youth of the Year program and giving teens more opportunities and support to achieve a bright future! And thank you to our 2020 Youth of the Year Judges: Nicole Barber from Chevron, Dom Etienne from American National, Abbey King from The Dobson Foundation, Ken Tubman from Marathon Oil Corporation and Michelle Young from Wells Fargo.

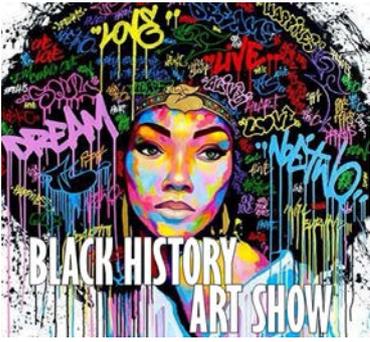


DPR Hosts Workforce Development Career Panel

In February, DPR Construction hosted a Valentines Day Career Panel to support our Workforce Readiness program. Youth from two of our Clubs attended the event. They made connections with DPR panelists, gained insight and learned about DPR internship opportunities.



Club members speaking with DPR panelists



Art Show for Black History Month

BGCGH celebrated Black History by hosting the 3rd annual Black History Month Art Show, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, at the Stafford Boys & Girls Clubs. Club members from six Clubs showcased their art work to art show guests including families and community partners. Guests enjoyed refreshments while visiting with Club members who spoke about their art pieces and their inspiration behind the designs.

Building Industry Leaders

25 of our teens from five Clubs had the opportunity to participate in the Building Industry Leaders program earlier this year. Building Industry Leaders is a cooperative program between the Urban Land Institute Houston and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston to educate and mentor high school students on the diverse career opportunities in commercial real estate and give them the professional skills to become industry leaders and contributing members of the community. Youth interacted with professionals from architecture, civil engineering, landscape architecture, construction, design, development, and finance.



Club members pictured with ULI mentors



Club members working with ULI mentors

Qatar National Sports Day

In February, the Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Houston celebrated National Sports Day with members from our Spring Branch Club. Now in its 9th year, and an annual celebration in Qatar, National Sports Day is a special celebration meant to encourage and support youth involvement in sports. The soccer clinic was put on by the Houston Dynamo for Boys & Girls Club members with Qatar's support. Our Spring Branch members always have so much fun!



Spring Branch Club Boys & Girls Club members participate in a soccer clinic hosted by the Houston Dynamo and the Consulate General of the State of Qatar

Carol Freeman Volunteer of the Year Award

BGCGH created the inaugural Carol Freeman Volunteer of the Year Award - named for long-time volunteer Carol Freeman, who has been a tireless mentor to the kids at BGCGH's Johnny Mitchell Club. Carol is the first recipient of the award, which honors selfless and outstanding service to youth on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston. Carol received her award at the Youth of the Year Dinner in February in the presence of her family, friends and the youth she supports.



Carol Freeman receives the inaugural Carol Freeman Volunteer of the Year Award from past Board Chair, Bill Goetz



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS!



Thank you to Monsterville Horton, III and to Monsterville Wines for their support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston. In February, a portion of the proceeds from the 2nd annual Burgundy and Borolo Festival benefited our Clubs. The two night event included a special 4-course dinner, an amazing wine selection, live entertainment and a special "paddles up" fundraiser - all benefiting BGCGH!

We are excited to announce that the Houston Texans have renewed their partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston. The Houston Texans have been long-time supporters of BGCGH, most notably with the opening of the Houston Texans Teen Club in 2016. We are grateful to the Houston Texans as they stand with us in doing whatever it takes to build great futures for kids!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

**GREAT
futures
DINNER**

WHATEVER IT TAKES

SAVE *the* DATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

HILTON AMERICAS - HOUSTON • 1600 LAMAR STREET

SILENT AUCTION AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION **6:00 PM**

DINNER AND LIVE AUCTION **7:00 PM**

HONORING



AND

TheGeorgeFoundation
Est. 1945

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://bgcgh.home.qtego.net/>

Ways to Invest

- Make a donation online at www.bgcgh.org or by mail.
- Sponsor one of BGCGH's events such as the **Great Futures Dinner** or the **Boys & Girls Clubs Sporting Clays Tournament**.
- Become a member of the **Great Futures Society** with an unrestricted annual gift of \$10,000 or more.
- Join the **1952 Legacy Society** and show support in perpetuity by including BGCGH in your will or estate plans.
- Give an in-kind donation of products, goods or services.