

CONNECTION

The official newsletter of



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VALDOSTA

Proud agency of the
Greater Valdosta
United Way



New people. New places. Same purpose.

We're growing—and so is our impact. As we stretch to serve more young people in more great communities, exciting things are unfolding across the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta. In this issue, meet some of our incredible new staff, get a glimpse into the communities working hard to bring a Club to their youth, and of course, enjoy some snapshots of all the spring fun our members have been having. There's so much to celebrate—and even more ahead! We couldn't do it without you!

LANIER COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH IMPACT CENTER



After 23 years in ministry, Ryan Tuten felt called to serve youth in a new way. In **2018, Ryan and his wife Michelle launched the Youth IMPACT Center in Lakeland, GA**—a youth development center where young people could find hope, guidance, and

opportunity. Fast forward seven years—and

hundreds of transformed lives later—the mission continues stronger than ever. In **January 2025, the Youth IMPACT Center officially became part of the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta family, now operating as the Boys & Girls Club Youth IMPACT Center.**

Ryan continues to lead the Lakeland site and now serves as Area Director, helping expand our reach into new rural counties like Echols County! His Bible-based character program, developed through Youth IMPACT, is now being shared across our entire organization in four counties! **We're proud to carry forward the legacy of Youth IMPACT under the Boys & Girls Club banner and can't wait to see Ryan's continued IMPACT!**

Ryan Tuten
Boys & Girls Club
Area Director



ECHOLS COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Lanier County was just the beginning. The Echols County Boys & Girls Club is coming soon! Thanks to the generous donation of the old IGA building by the Echols County Commission and the incredible support of the community, we're getting ready to open a space where **futures shine bright.** **We're launching our Hopes and Dreams Campaign to raise the \$450,000** needed to bring this Club to life—and **right now, every gift is being matched dollar for dollar up to \$225,000!** That means your **impact is DOUBLED!** Give today and help us open the doors for Echols County.



CHANDLER CHANCY



Meet our new **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, Chandler Chancy!!** With her **expertise, energy, and heart for young people,** Chandler is deeply committed to our mission of helping every child reach their full potential. She'll be working closely with our wonderful donors and partners who make our mission possible—building relationships, sharing stories, and ensuring every gift is felt and celebrated. Want to connect or say hello? Reach out to her at **cchancy@bgcvaldosta.org.** We can't wait for you to meet her!



THE GREAT AMERICAN COOK-OFF
BATTLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDERS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VALDOSTA



On March 15th, **Seasons of Miller Hardware** was filled to the brim with games, first responders, \$5 lunch plates, and over 600 of YOU at our Great American Cook-Off: Battle of the First Responders. On behalf of our Club and title sponsors **Miller Hardware and Traeger Grills,** we shout "Congratulations!" to the **Valdosta Police Department, sponsored by Renasant Bank,** for taking home the title of 2025 Grillmaster! See you all next year!





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VALDOSTA**

*This newsletter and
postage is lovingly
sponsored by*

MILLER
HARDWARE COMPANY



ACADEMY for SUCCESS

In our Academy for Success program, teens engage in **8 weeks of workforce development training – 4 weeks of learning how to get a job and 4 weeks on how to KEEP a job!** Class topics include handshakes, learning to tie a tie, mock interviews with local employers, requesting time off, conflict resolution, the art of conversation, and more! We are thankful for **Deanna Smith (The Investment Center at CBC Bank)** and **Amy Carter Davis (Southern Regional Technical College)** for being champions and facilitators of this program this year! A special shoutout to **Guardian Bank** for gifting each of our program participants a brand-new laptop!

RAISING HIGHLY CAPABLE KIDS™

We are so proud of these parents!

And... that's a wrap for Raising Highly Capable Kids 2025! Over 40 amazing parents committed to 13 weeks of gathering and encouraging each other through the highs and lows of parenting while working through **Focus on the Family's powerful RezilientKidz curriculum**. But don't worry – we made sure their kids were busy and having a BLAST while they met. Parent graduation at the **beautiful Rainwater Conference Center** was a night to remember, and we were honored to celebrate our parents' dedication to building strong families.

Working together – families, communities, & organizations – is key to raising successful children. When we all support each other and create a nurturing environment, families can really thrive!

- Brenda Hardy, BGC Staff & RHCK Director



FUN WITH O'STEEN SUBARU!

We owe a HUGE thank you to this incredible team and all who support them. During the 2024 Subaru Share the Love event, for every car bought at the end of 2024, a portion of the proceeds went to local



nonprofits in our community! The O'Steen Subaru team also donated hundreds of shoes to our youth in partnership with Operation Warm! Because of wonderful organizations and families like this,



young people find a safe place to learn and grow at the BGC every single day! Thank you!

2024 BGC ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Old Reliable Awards: Prentice Taylor & Lee Crosby, Jr.

Extra Mile Award: Youth IMPACT Center Founding Board

Award received by Ryan Tuten

Man of the Year Award: Mr. Ben McGuire

Woman of the Year Award: Joyce Evans

Want to get involved?

Contact us! ☎ (229) 242-0676
✉ cchancy@bgcvaldosta.org

Volunteer!

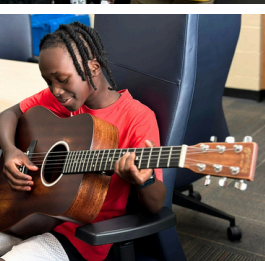
Be a guest reader for a class, read with a kiddo who needs some extra support, help us pack these newsletters, or call & we plug you in!

Donate!

Join us in our mission by giving a one-time gift or... joining our monthly giving program! See our website for more info.

Come see us!

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram, join our email list, or come see us in person for a glimpse of life at the BGC!



Sponsor a great kiddo

like Brianna this summer!



Beyond the Club...

Visit us anytime - wherever you are!
www.bgcvaldosta.org



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VALDOSTA**

