

CONNECTION

The official newsletter of



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VALDOSTA



Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene was tough on our community, especially our young people. For that reason, once it was safe and after an all-hands-on-deck site clean-up, we opened our Clubs for full-day programming from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, providing a safe space for children, three meals, air conditioning, and plenty of fun. In addition to serving our children and families, we housed Georgia Power linemen just after the hurricane, distributed food and supplies in Quitman, and facilitated job fairs for essential clean-up crews! We are geared up and ready to continue serving our young people and community!



LEAD. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.

Every year, students at Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation participate in

the annual Youth of the Year contest, a leadership development program that allows them to serve as ambassadors for BGC youth. At the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta, Takeriyona earned this title this past year and traveled to Atlanta, GA, in March to compete at the state level! Takeriyona continues to be a light and leader in our Club and looks forward to pursuing further education and a career as a social worker after graduation. She started college this August! Congratulations, Takeriyona!



“ I believe I can represent the youth of America by giving hope to kids younger than me and showing them how to be a leader to others. ”

-Takeriyona Brown, Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta 2023 Youth of the Year

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES with SECOND HARVEST

Did you know? We partner with Second Harvest of South Georgia to ensure no child leaves the Boys & Girls Club hungry, whether afterschool or during the summer. Our kids receive dinner and a snack afterschool, and in the summer, they're provided with breakfast, lunch, and a snack before heading home! We know that hungry kids can't learn, and we aim to support our hard-working parents who work late! Thanks, Second Harvest!



ALWAYS LEARNING



At the Boys & Girls Club, learning is a year-round adventure! This summer, 20 certified teachers led our students through fun, hands-on activities, keeping their brains active and preparing them for what's next. Academics are central to our programs, and having qualified educators afterschool and in the summer is essential to making a real impact on our young people.



POOL TIME!

Did you know that every child who comes to the Boys & Girls Club has the opportunity to learn to swim? We have kids in the pool all summer long and during the warmer months of the school year. This summer, we added many new swimmers to our certified swimmers club! After passing their swim test, they got to swim in the deep end and learned to kayak, thanks to our friends at O'Steen Subaru, Miller Hardware, and the Greater Valdosta United Way!



This summer, we made a splash!



Valdosta State University **STEAM** Center

We've had so much fun at the VSU STEAM Center this summer with Dr. Brian Gerber and his team!! We learned about the Amazon rainforest, built lego cities, played games with our friends & counselors, worked on some really cool hands-on science experiments (like making snow!) and TONS more. **Boys & Girls Club x VSU STEAM Center = loads of fun!!** We can't wait to see what the fall STEAM exhibit is and take a tour!



Help us stock up on some FUN by purchasing from our Amazon wishlist!



A glimpse of summer at our Brooks County campus!

Summer at our Brooks County campus was filled with swim lessons, yummy meals, arts & crafts, and learning. We learned about the phases of the moon with Oreos, celebrated birthdays, and cooked delicious recipes in "Baking with Beasley" classes! We also took SO many fun field trips - like going bowling and seeing a movie at the theater!

SNACK TIME

We're thankful for CJB Industries and their commitment to provide yummy snacks all summer long!! Our kiddos are ALWAYS moving and CJB helps provide a little "pick-me-up" between breakfast and lunch time!



BLESSINGS O'STEEN SUBARU!



We owe a HUGE thank you to this incredible team and all who support them. During the 2023 Subaru Share the Love event, for every car bought at the end of 2023 a portion of the proceeds went to nonprofits in our community. Because of you, the kids in our community who need us most find a safe place to learn and grow EVERY DAY after school and during the summer here at the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta. We are so thankful for a community that wraps its arms around our mission at the Boys & Girls Club.

Become a Monthly Giver.

\$10

\$25

\$50!

By becoming a monthly donor, you help unlock a brighter future for a child right here in our community. Your gift, whether \$10, \$25, or \$50, provides life-changing programs, safe spaces, and opportunities for children to thrive. Together, we can ensure every child has what they need to dream big and reach their full potential. You can be the reason a child's future shines brighter—starting today.

bgcvaldosta.org

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!

