

OCTOBER 2025

# Club Kid Matters

ISSUE NO.TWO

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

**This is FUN!**  
- Child at Upatoi Polo Cup



 **Little Chef  
Big Chef** **2025**  
BRUNCH COMPETITION



## ● IN THIS ISSUE



**Donor Highlights**



**YOUTH OF THE YEAR**



**Volunteers Change the Game**





# Donor Spotlight: Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

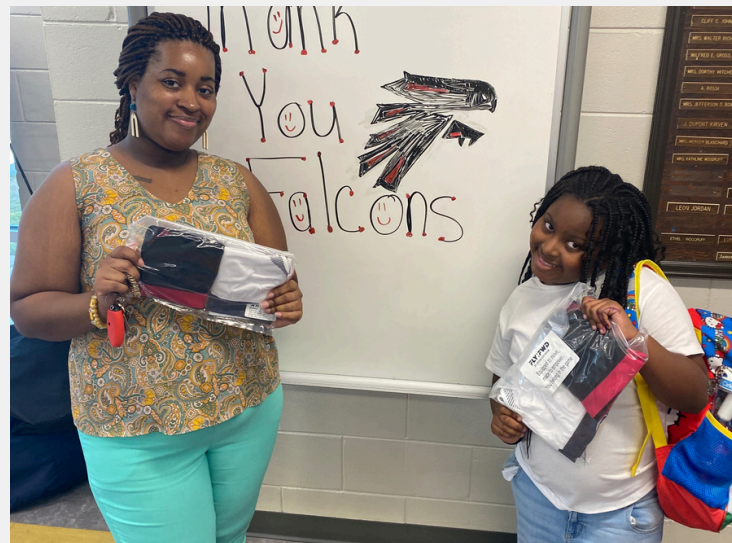


by Mary Garcia

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley is proud to recognize the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for their generous support and lasting impact on our community. For more than 30 years, the Foundation has embodied its belief that giving back can change lives—and in doing so, change the world.

Here in the Chattahoochee Valley, their partnership has already created meaningful change. With their support, we were able to install a brand-new playground at our East Columbus Club, providing a safe and fun space where kids can play, grow, and build friendships. The Foundation also made it possible for us to partner with the Atlanta Falcons to provide sports bras to Club girls at all of our locations—a gift that promotes confidence, inclusion, and empowerment for the next generation of female athletes.

These investments are more than just programs or projects—they represent hope, opportunity, and a brighter future for our young people. We are deeply grateful to the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for walking alongside us in our mission to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential.





## Little Chef–Big Chef 2025 Showcases Local Flavor at the 45th Upatoi Polo Cup

by Katie Evans

The 45th Upatoi Polo Cup once again highlighted community, competition, and culinary creativity with the return of the Little Chef–Big Chef challenge. This year’s event featured three outstanding local restaurants—The Food Mill, It’s Tamale Time, and newcomer LA’s To Go & Catering—each paired with Boys & Girls Club members to create dishes that wowed the crowd.

In a competition decided by a narrow margin, LA’s To Go & Catering claimed the top spot, making an impressive debut. Their team was paired with Club kids from the South Columbus Boys & Girls Club, who brought enthusiasm, teamwork, and plenty of creativity to the kitchen.

The success of this year’s event has inspired us to grow. In 2026, we’ll be opening two additional spots in the competition, giving more restaurants—and more Club kids—the chance to shine. Little Chef–Big Chef continues to be a favorite addition to the Upatoi Polo Cup, showcasing the talent of our local culinary community while giving Club members a one-of-a-kind experience they’ll never forget.







## Success at the 45th Upatoi Polo Cup

by Katie Evans

The 45th Upatoi Polo Cup was an unforgettable day filled with tradition, excitement, and community spirit. Guests gathered to enjoy a thrilling polo match where Upatoi Green emerged victorious, with Hardy Pemberton earning recognition as the event's MVP.

Adding to the day's festivities, the second annual Little Chef–Big Chef competition was once again a crowd favorite, showcasing local culinary talent alongside our Club kids. Between matches, spectators were treated to a breathtaking performance by Chase Moore, a veteran RC pilot, who wowed the crowd flying an incredible 64-pound jet powered by real jet fuel—producing 70 pounds of thrust at 98,000 RPM.

The event began on a high note with a moving rendition of the National Anthem sung by Nicole Marcus. Throughout the day, families and guests of all ages enjoyed delicious food, games, and special visits—including a fun appearance from our very own Columbus Clingstones mascot, Fuzzy.

Excitement carried into the evening with the reverse raffle, where Martin Jones was the lucky winner. In an extraordinary show of generosity, Jones donated his winnings back to benefit The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, participants, and community, this year's Cup exceeded its fundraising goal, ensuring that more young people in our community will have access to life-changing programs and opportunities.

The 45th Upatoi Polo Cup was a true celebration of sport, talent, and giving. We are deeply grateful to all who made this year's event a success and are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back next year!





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**Join us in welcoming  
our new CEO!**

**Fred Maglione**

Columbus  
Needs  
**Club Kids**  
Club Kids Need You.



**Congratulations to our PODCAST  
Team for being a Finalist in the  
Documentary Category!**





## Youth of the Year 2026

On October 1st, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley will launch one of our most inspiring and impactful traditions—the Youth of the Year process. This program represents the highest honor a Club member can receive, celebrating the remarkable efforts of teens who are committed to their personal growth, their communities, and their leadership development.

Since 1947, the Youth of the Year program has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition event. For decades, it has served as a powerful platform to foster the leaders of tomorrow—young people prepared to thrive in a diverse, global, and integrated world.

The competition is open to all Club members ages 14–18. Each month, Clubs throughout the Valley will select and honor one outstanding teen who demonstrates integrity, resilience, and a passion for making a difference. From there, a single representative from each Club will be chosen to advance to our annual Youth of the Year event, where one young leader will be named the Chattahoochee Valley's Youth of the Year.

The process is rigorous, requiring teens to prepare speeches, essays, and interviews that reflect their journey, values, and vision for the future. More than a competition, Youth of the Year is a life-shaping experience that empowers teens to discover their voice, build confidence, and inspire their peers.

We are proud to begin this year's process and look forward to celebrating the extraordinary young people who embody the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs. Their stories remind us that Great Futures truly start here.





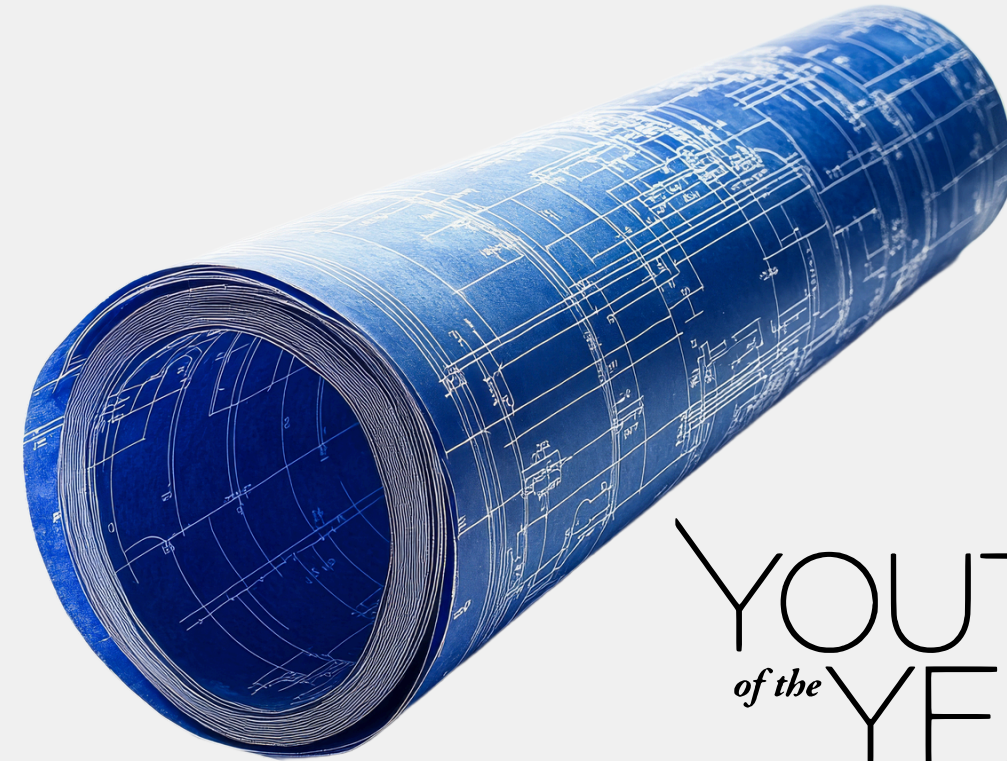
## Upcoming Events:

- Youth of the Year 2026 (February 5th)
- Women's Creative Collective Luncheon (April 23rd)



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

## In the next issue:



2026  
YOUTH  
*of the*  
YEAR

Enrollment is always open, join a club today!

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