



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Goodbye Summer...Hello New School Year!

This Month in a Minute...

- Ms. Elizabeth's September Update
- New Fellsmere Club Set to Open Ahead of Schedule
- Catch Up with Club Alumni
- Survey Highlights Academic Successes, Challenges
- A Smooth Transition: From Summer to the School Year!
- Deceased Educator Gives Club Members the Gift of Art

Back-to-School Update

Greetings!

Our 10-week Summer Program ended on a high note with our World Cup Soccer Tournament and several exciting field trips, including a Quail Valley boat trip and a sea turtle encounter at Disney's Vero Beach Resort.

After one week of staff training, we transitioned right into to our after-school program. Our three Clubs in Vero Beach,

Sebastian and Fellsmere are now open every day after school from 2:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

The kids are transported from Indian River schools straight to the Clubs by school bus. They are participating in a wide variety of programs, including art, drama, sports, leadership groups, homework help, tutoring, and college- and career preparation for teens.

Now the school year is in full swing, and we are currently serving 440 Club members ages 6-18 every day, and all of our locations are at maximum capacity!



Your continued, generous support provides our kids the confidence, mentoring and hope they need to achieve success not only in academics, but all areas of their lives. We can't thank you enough.

With Appreciation,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Thomason
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County

New Fellsmere Club Set to Open Ahead of Schedule

Fellsmere Club members will be able to move into their new digs sooner than expected! Construction on the new building, located adjacent to the historic 1916 schoolhouse, is now scheduled to be completed at the end of October.

The Club has been painted, the pavers and patio have been installed, and the cabinets and bathrooms are complete. Please enjoy these pictures of the progress:



Welcome to the new Fellsmere Boys & Girls Club! The new 8,000 square-foot facility will allow us to serve approximately 40 additional Club members each year.



The courtyard and flagpole soon will be a gathering place for hundreds of kids.



Bulldozers cleared the way for a new parking lot.



Fellsmere Club members can't wait for their new Club to open! We're so close...

Where Are They Now? Catching Up with Former Club Members

At the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County, we strive to stay connected with our past members. Join us as we check in with a few of our Alumni to see what they are up to!



Raliyah, our 2016 Youth of the Year, is doing big things! She just completed her first year in the nursing program at the University of South Florida and studied abroad in Trinidad and Tobago! After college, she plans to work at a local hospital, help out in her church ministry, and pursue a Doctor of Nursing degree. She recently was featured in an article on the Boys & Girls Clubs of America website. Read about it [here](#)!



Chris graduated high school in May of 2019 with the goal of attending Polk State College. Due to an unexpected death in his family, he is staying in Vero Beach for now and is working at Piper Aircraft. He enjoys his job but is eager to re-enroll at Polk State College in the spring! Our Career Counselor, Ms. Laura, is staying in close contact with Chris as he takes his next steps to pursue post-secondary education.



Last but not least, we have Dalyce, a Club member from 2008 to 2014! During her time as a member, Dalyce participated in our Junior Staff program and eventually became an intern. She is now employed at our Vero Beach Club as a youth development professional in the technology room! We are grateful to have her on our team. In her free time, Dallas is taking care of her family and taking online courses to become a paralegal.

Stay tuned for more updates on Club Alumni. Did you attend the Boys & Girls Clubs? Join our growing alumni network [here!](#)



Behind the Numbers: Club Member Survey Highlights Academic Successes, Challenges

The results are in! Every year, Club members complete a survey developed by

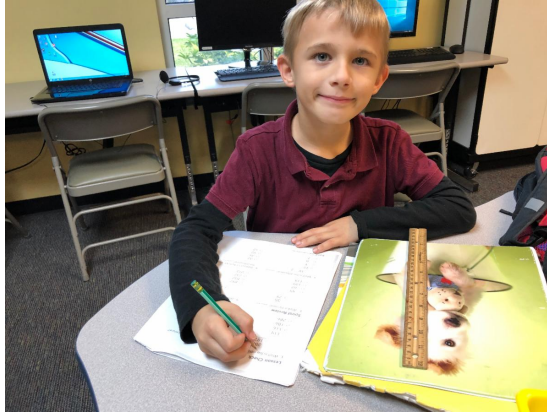
the Boys & Girls Clubs of America called the National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI).

Survey responses help us tailor programs to meet the unique needs and challenges facing children in our community.

We collect data points in six outcome areas:

1) Club Experience; 2) Safety; 3) Good Character & Citizenship; 4) Healthy Lifestyles; 5) Academic Success; and 6) Social Emotional Development.

This month, join us as we delve deeper into a few of the results tied to Academic Success:



78% of Club members are receiving A's and B's in school.

Behind the Numbers: While academic performance among Club members is promising, there is still room for improvement. This year, we are bringing in a professional tutor twice a week to help children who struggle in particular subject areas. This tutor will compliment our professional staff, especially during the Power Hour homework help program.

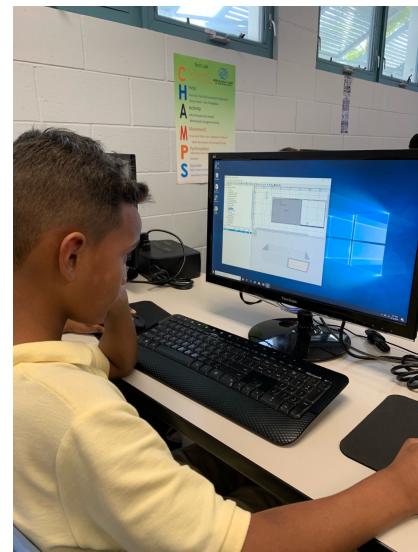
85% of Club members expect to attain post-secondary education, including going to college or trade school.

Behind the Numbers: We have seen this percentage increase over prior years, due to our Destinations teen program and adding a full-time Career Counselor. We have scheduled a new rotation of college tours and guest speakers this year to introduce our teens to opportunities that await them after high school graduation. Also, we will begin offering [Diplomas2degrees](#), a college-readiness program that also promotes trade schools.

71% of Club members report that they are interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Behind the Numbers: STEM education is a national priority. By 2027, the number of STEM jobs is expected to grow 13% compared to 9% for non-STEM jobs. At the Clubs, we will be promoting STEM this year through technology lab activities, summer science projects, and educational field trips with a STEM focus. We also will bring in guest speakers with expertise in these subject matters.

Pictured right: Van Angel designs the blueprint for his dream home using a digital design program.



Sweet Summer Program Ends with Exciting Excursions

The kids are loving the after-school program so far. But let's take a moment to revisit a few memories that made this summer one of the best ever!



The kids visited Disney's Vero Beach Resort for the 12th Annual Tour De Turtles. They cheered excitedly as two adult loggerhead turtles, Ariel and Ursula, were outfitted with satellite trackers and sent out into the ocean so that scientists can study their migration.

Club members came away from this field trip with a newfound appreciation for these magnificent creatures and why it is so important to preserve their habitat.



The kids see a baby sea turtle up close.



Safe travels Ariel!



Club members took a 2-hour boat cruise on the Indian River Lagoon thanks to a generous donor from Quail Valley. For several of the kids, it was their first time ever on a boat and their first time spotting dolphins. We were fortunate to see four of them during the trip! A big thank you to our gracious captain Roger for the smooth ride aboard The Rover.



Summertime and the livin is easy!



Club members in our Destinations Teen Program toured the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Here, they learn about the admissions process, student life, and the various programs offered by the college.



The UNF dorms are now teen-approved!



Summer sure was fun! But now the kids are ready to buckle down and hit the books. Of course, we still have plenty of fun trips and programs planned for them after school too. Make sure to check back in next month to hear more about their adventures!

Deceased Educator Bestows Gift of Art Upon Club Members

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County were very fortunate to receive a generous donation of art supplies from Mrs. Erin Arena Foster, a champion for local youth. Mrs. Foster passed away unexpectedly in June at age 46.

Mrs. Foster was a paralegal at Rosway Swan Tierney Barry Lacey & Oliver, P.L. for more than two decades. In her personal life, she was very active on the board of the local 4-H Club, and every year, she made it her mission to give a box of school supplies to every school the county. She used her artistic talents to bring joy to those around her, creating jewelry, tumblers, scrapbooks, and other arts and crafts.

Mrs. Foster never had kids of her own, but she always wanted to give to children and cared about them deeply. "She never wanted any kid to be without," said Becky McLaughlin, Mrs. Arena's long-time friend. "She was a giver."

Thanks to the donation from Mrs. Foster, the kids attending the Boys & Girls Clubs have access to additional art supplies this school year, including scrapbook materials, colorful ribbons, jewelry, stamps, paints, storage boxes, and so much more.

Ms. Maria, who oversees the art program at our Vero Beach Club, is overjoyed. "Mrs. Foster has opened up so many more creative outlets for the kids through her donation," she said. "We are very grateful for her passion for the arts and for our kids."



Erin Foster (right) and Becky McLaughlin



Boys & Girls Club staff proudly the colorful ribbons donated by Mrs. Foster. The kids are currently using them to create three-dimensional ribbon sculptures!

Sign Up Now for Our 18th Annual Golf Tournaments!

Spots are filling up fast for our three Golf Tournaments coming up in November. **If you would like to play, now is the time to call 772-299-7449 and register your team!**

Our **Pro Am Tournament** is happening Monday, November 4 at John's Island West Country Club. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. and the shotgun start is at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$600 per person and the format is one gross, one net.

Our **Amateur Tournament** is on Monday, November 11th at Bent Pine Golf Club! We are very excited to offer players a new venue and a few surprises as well. Registration



for the Amateur Tournament will be at 11:30 a.m. and the shotgun start will be at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$350 per person and the format is best ball of four, shamble.

Finally, our **Nine & Shine tournament** also will take place on November 11th at Bent Pine Golf Club. The event is a nine-hole tournament exclusively for ladies. Registration for the Nine Hole Tournament will be at 8:15 a.m. and the shotgun start will be at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$225 per person and the format is best ball of four, shamble.

You can help even more Club members with a sponsorship! Sponsorship opportunities are still available starting at \$350 for a Tee Sign at all three tournaments. If you want to become a sponsor or would like more information, please call Phil Barnes, Director of Resource Development, at 772-299-7449.

We are grateful for the continued hard work of Golf Committee Chairman Trent Leyda and Committee Members: John Campione, John Corbett, Marcy DeWolfe, Sandy Johnson, Nancy Lynch, and Bill Munn.



Sign up for golf or become a sponsor online! Click [here](#) and register today.

You can also register by contacting Phil Barnes, Director of Resource Development, at 772-299-7449 or by [email](#).

See What's Up at the Clubs!



Vero Beach

Parents and siblings packed the bleachers at the Vero Beach Club for our annual talent show! The Club members sang, danced and performed other unique talents in front of a full crowd.

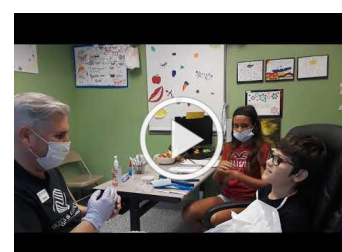
"It's so fun to see parents and grandparents come out to support their kids," said Vero Beach Program Director Donna Macera. "Their faces light up when they see their children perform."



Fellsmere

Thanks to a generous gift from one of our Angel Donors, the Fellsmere teens in our [Keystone Club](#) are going to Disney! They can barely contain their excitement and are already planning their trip.

The teens are now inspired to work even harder to raise funds their Keystone Club. Pictured above, Fellsmere Club members Alexi (left) and George hold a candy sale fundraiser.



Sebastian

The Sebastian Club is promoting healthy lifestyles!

The staff hosted a "Fun Day at the Dentist" to remind kids of the importance of brushing their teeth and maintaining good oral hygiene. Check out the video above to see resident "dentist" Mr. Will in action!

Sebastian also passed out fresh apples to the kids on September 26th to celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day.

See How You Can Help!

Donate

Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Because of the generosity of our local community, we are able to serve **1,200** Club members each year.

Attend

Participate in our special events!

Save the Date:

November 4th - Pro Am Golf

Volunteer

We are always seeking tutors, mentors, reading coaches, and caring adults to spend time in one of our three Clubs.

Need more information?

If you are interested in providing sustainable support for the Club, please contact Director of Resource Development, Phil Barnes, at **772-299-7449**.

You can make a difference in the lives of our members in a variety of ways, including donating supplies, becoming a Business Booster, providing scholarship support, and much more. To make a difference today click [here](#).

Tournament

November 11th - Amateur and Nine-Hole Golf Tournaments

March 2nd - Angels Dinner

April 24th - Eighth Annual Bridge Tournament

[Email](#) or call Director of Resource Development, Phil Barnes, at 772-299-7449.

To view the banner used for this e-newsletter, please click [here](#).



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

We appreciate your support!

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

[Invest in a Child Today!](#)

