



BOYS & GIRLS
C O U N T R Y
A Home for Children

BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY
news
summer 2022

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2021-2022 A/B Honor Roll kids with Vince

VINCE'S VIEW

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The month of May is always a special time at Boys and Girls Country. Our annual Spring Festival was held one week earlier this year, but it is the event that marks the beginning of many celebrations for our students, especially our seniors.

Other students are also preparing for their next big step. This year, I participated in an event with our elementary school students at Turlington Elementary. The ceremony involved students, staff and loved ones lining the hallways to watch the fifth graders walk through the elementary corridor for the last time.

Graduation and end-of-school celebrations may seem like things are coming to a close, but in reality, these are only the beginning of another transition. Many of our graduates will enter our College & Career program. They will receive full support from our staff as they begin a new academic or professional journey. Every year, I like to share two important scriptures with our seniors. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14); and "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

I like to sum it up by saying, "Shine bright and keep priorities right."

There is another transition that will take place this summer. Some students will move from BGC back to their home with loved ones. I call this the ultimate graduation. Over the last few years, we have seen more students returning home to a relative or family member. This school year, 18 children returned home after a life-changing experience at BGC.

There is also a trend where children are coming to us at a younger age and staying in our care for a shorter time. We recently received one child just a few days after his fifth birthday. The good news is that we are structured with the flexibility to adjust to these trends. Even when children return home, their families still have access to our professional staff for family counseling and parent coaching.

We have many resources here at BGC because of your faithful support. This fall, 24 students in our program will continue their journeys at Lone Star College, University of North Texas, Texas State, University of Houston and many other universities. I know I say this often, but we really cannot do this without you.

Vincent Duran
Chief Executive Officer



CELEBRATING MILESTONES



Executive Director's House

Thanks to an incredible partnership between the Hamill Foundation and Caldwell Homes, Boys and Girls Country has an exciting new addition on campus, the Executive Director's House.

Vince Duran, his wife and their two sons will reside in the new house. The four-bedroom residence was funded by the Hamill Foundation and built by Caldwell Homes.

The house is a blessing for the entire organization. This spacious new home will serve as a place of entertainment and fellowship for both friends of BGC and our kids.

"Living onsite at Boys and Girls Country makes all the difference in the world, both in terms of overseeing the operation and also connecting with our children," Duran said.

"We're grateful to Caldwell Homes and the Hamill Foundation for making this possible. It's a wonderful gift for the community."

The Hamill Foundation has been a generous and faithful sponsor for many years and helped fund other buildings on campus. This was the first project that Caldwell Homes helped build for BGC, and it is the start of a beautiful partnership.



Deven Graduates from Marion Military Institute

We are so proud of Deven for receiving his Associate of Science degree from Marion Military Institute! Deven has not let a traumatic past hold him back from pursuing his dreams.

Deven's early years were surrounded by drugs, crime and abuse. Statistics said he was likely to be a high school dropout or end up in prison. However, God had bigger plans for him, and he came to BGC at the age of 14.

When Deven arrived, he was behind his peers academically. He credits BGC for helping him strive for a brighter future by supporting him academically and emotionally.

"I would like to give many thanks to all the donors, sponsors, teaching parents, mentors, friends, family members and



brothers and sisters through Christ who made the opportunity to pursue a higher education possible," Deven said.

Deven is now working toward an undergraduate degree at Liberty University in Law and Policy while serving on active duty in the U.S. Army.

His long-term plan is to attend law school. He wants to focus on fighting crimes against children and special victims or narcotics trafficking.

"I have aspirations to serve as a commissioned officer and use my position of leadership to positively influence the lives of those around me," Deven said.

We are blessed to support Deven on his journey through life and higher education.



3.32 CAMPUS GPA



2,400 TUTORING HOURS



20 AVG. NUMBER OF A/B HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Back To



2013

Despite the struggles he was facing, Robert persevered. When on their way to the women's shelter, Robert and his mother had a conversation that he'll never forget.

"I know our situation may not be what we want, but we have to deal with it," Robert's mother said. "I want you to promise me that you will go to college because I know you are capable of doing so, but you have to give it your all and try your best, so promise me."

"Yes, Mom, I promise I will go to college, and I will complete it," Robert replied to his mother.

Robert has never forgotten the promise he made his mother.

Part of Robert's journey to college was coming to live at BGC on April 11, 2013.

When Robert arrived, he thought BGC looked like a summer camp. He understood that this was his new home, but he found BGC to be "very overwhelming" at first.

As Robert realized that living at BGC meant he had a home and a room to call his own, he realized what a blessing BGC is for him and many others. He referred to BGC as "a dream come true."

With a safe and stable place to live, Robert continued to apply himself academically, and he graduated in the top 10% of his class from Waller High School.

When Robert was a senior in high school, he went with a group from BGC to visit Oklahoma Christian University (OCU). During this trip, OCU informed Robert that he was accepted, and they awarded him a \$32,000 scholarship.

When Robert was six years old, his father became abusive toward his mother. By the time Robert was 10, his mother had the courage to divorce his father. Robert, his mother and two younger brothers began a life of running from their father and struggling to survive.

Robert's mother worked any job she could get in order to try to make ends meet. They lived in a car for months and took refuge at women's shelters when possible.

"We never had a place to call home," Robert said. "We were bouncing from school to school, and I never had a bed to call my own."

Robert was told by his father that the family would be better off without him. This emotional and verbal abuse took a toll on Robert.



Robert (left) with his College & Career friends at Spring Festival 2022



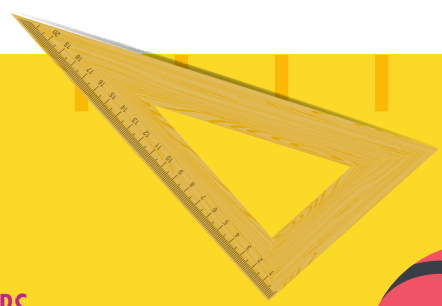
School

 **2** COLLEGE GRADUATES

 **3** AP CLASSES

 **10** HONORS CLASSES

Data Presented as of 2021



Robert is a medical laboratory science major at OCU and is on track to graduate in May 2023. Once he graduates, he will be a medical laboratory technician.

His program has a unique structure that he enjoys. He works in the lab Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and he attends class on Monday and Friday.

In the lab, Robert participates in different rotations including phlebotomy, coagulation, chemistry and hematology.

“My favorite thing about my field is that the results I receive can impact patients’ lives,” Robert said. “I have a chance to help find a solution to people’s issues.”

Robert is grateful for BGC helping him to have such a great college experience. He is thankful for both the financial and emotional support that comes from being a part of the College & Career program.

“They provide support, and I can come back anytime I want,” Robert said.

“I called when I was having a freakout about the work load. They are there for emotional support, and they have even visited me at OCU several times.”

With your support, BGC is able to provide a loving and stable home for kids, where they do not have to worry about where their next meal is coming

from or if they have a safe place to lay their head down at night.

You can help kids like Robert pursue their dreams of a higher education.

Once a child’s basic needs are met, they can then focus on academics and emotional healing. BGC provides counseling and tutoring to help kids catch up to their peers academically and counseling to help with trauma they have experienced.

The College & Career program financially and emotionally supports young adults like Robert who are pursuing a higher education as well as those who are in trade school or serving in the military.

All that BGC does is not possible without your support. Please prayerfully consider giving to support our mission of providing a loving Christian home for children from families in need. **When you make a donation of \$50, \$100, \$200 or more, you are investing in the lives of these children as well as their futures.**

You may give using the enclosed envelope or give securely online by visiting www.boysandgirlscountry.org and applying your donation to “Back to School.”

Thank you for helping children in need to have not just what they need now but what they need in the future as well. Your support touches the lives of many.



High School graduation in 2018



2022

Congratulations!

to the class of 2022!

We are so proud of our high school graduates, and we celebrate this milestone they have accomplished. Graduation marks a transition into adulthood, and as these graduates enter this next chapter of their lives, BGC is excited to continue to support them as members of our College & Career program.

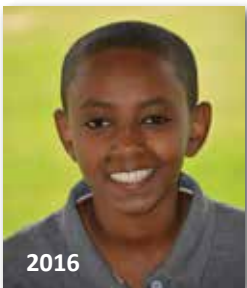


ADRIAN

Adrian came to BGC in 2017. He was new to Waller ISD, but he made friends by joining the wrestling team his junior year and choir his senior year. He enjoyed both activities, especially the choir trips. Adrian was feeling a little nervous about graduation, but he is looking forward to attending Texas State University, where he will be studying business with a minor in interior design.

Favorite BGC memory: Playing sardines in Cottage 8 when the lights went out due to Hurricane Harvey in 2017

Favorite scripture: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." *Ephesians 4:2*



ANILAY

Anilay has been a part of our BGC family for six years. He enjoyed high school and was looking forward to graduation. In high school, Anilay played soccer, football and ran track. His hobbies include music, movies and sleeping. After graduation, Anilay will be attending Lone Star College to study business and marketing.

Favorite BGC memory: Playing with the other boys and going to the home of his "auntie" (his teaching parent's sister)

Favorite scripture: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." *1 Timothy 4:12*





JAYDEN

Jayden came to BGC in 2017. He enjoyed his high school experience and will miss his friends. During high school, Jayden played basketball and participated in teen court. He also worked at Urban Air, Kroger and Resale With a Purpose. Jayden enjoys playing basketball, watching movies and eating—his favorite food is Takis. Jayden plans to work in welding and looks forward to traveling.

Favorite BGC memory: Preparing for the cottage light decorating contest at Christmas

Favorite scripture: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." *Jeremiah 33:3*



MICHELLE

Michelle has lived at BGC for five years. Throughout high school, Michelle ran cross country and track, participated in a cosmetology certification program and volunteered at Turlington Elementary School. In her spare time, she enjoys running and painting. Michelle is going to attend Lone Star College for two years to obtain her basic credits, and she then plans on transferring to complete a degree in mortuary science.

Favorite BGC memory: Spring Festival

Favorite scripture: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." *1 Timothy 4:12*



REGINA

Regina has been a part of the BGC family for more than ten years. Regina enjoys playing sports and participated in volleyball, track and basketball in high school. She described her high school years as "bumpy," but she really enjoyed her senior year. She was super excited about graduation but will miss her two best friends. Regina will attend Georgia State University.

Favorite BGC memory: Spring Festival

Favorite scripture: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." *Matthew 7:7*



SPRING FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

Our annual Spring Festival was a success! We are so thankful for our sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees who helped to make this such an amazing event. Together, we raised \$475,000 for Boys and Girls Country! Thank you for your support and loving our kids.



SPRING FESTIVAL WRAP-UP



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The ROTAN & HOOVER Families

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Boots and jeans or business casual

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Shannon Smith at
ShannonS@boysandgirlscountry.org or 281.290.1288

bit.ly/BGCHeritage

FREEWILL  **A Resource for Our Community**

Nearly 67% of American adults have not prepared a legal will describing how they would like their estate to be handled. Having a will is essential to protect the people, pets and causes you care about most. Boys and Girls Country has partnered with FreeWill to provide a simple, free resource for our community. Find peace of mind and protect the ones you love by checking out this tool to create your will in 20 minutes or less, at no personal cost. bit.ly/bgcfreewill



FEBRUARY 1, 2022–MAY 31, 2022

In Memory of

Thank you for remembering someone special with a gift to our children at Boys and Girls Country.



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*Includes gift(s) made to the Boys and Girls Country Endowment Fund



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To change the lives of children from families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian home environment, raising them to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

VISION

That every child has a place to grow up and a sense of being home.

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PRAY WITH US

Friends, as we continue to enjoy the summer, we celebrate the milestone of graduation and also look forward to the upcoming school year. We ask that you join us in prayer for the following:

- Our high school graduates and their transition into young adulthood;
- The new kids that have joined our program;
- Our kids to work hard this upcoming school year;
- The kids that have gone home to have a successful reunification with their loved ones;
- The safety and health of our community.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- ♥ To donate by mail, please use the envelope enclosed.
 - ♥ To give securely online, visit www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate
 - ♥ Text "BGC" to 22999 to donate and receive exciting updates about our kids.
 - ♥ Purchase supplies from our BGC Amazon list: www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc
 - ♥ Choose "Boys and Girls Country of Houston" as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases through Amazon Smile.
 - ♥ If you know a family who may need a placement for their child at BGC, please share our information with them. We hope BGC can serve families that are hurting in so many ways right now.
- Your gift today will ensure children from families in crisis have a safe home, a loving family and a successful future as contributing adults. Thank you for loving our kids!

FIND US ONLINE



@boysandgirlscountry

For questions or address changes, contact us:
supportkids@boysandgirlscountry.org | Phone: 281.351.4976

Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of our children and their families.