Vince’s View

Family reunions are a treasure as generations are remembered and celebrated. My family has deep roots in Sugar Land. Many of my relatives have worked at Imperial Sugar since 1908 and still live there after retirement, and my parents are proud graduates of Dulles High School. I was able to attend a family reunion right before the holidays, and my boys met extended family members for the very first time.

We recently welcomed our Boys and Girls Country alumni as they came home for a Christmas family reunion. Our staff was overwhelmed by the response and attendance. The event was highlighted with live music, BGC’s famous chicken almandine dinner, gifts and many stories filled with laughter. It was clear to me that Boys and Girls Country is still their home. Our alumni shared many fond memories as they toured the campus and were smitten by the new cottages, the Penny Loyd Student Life Center and the well-maintained swimming pool.

The best part of the night for me was spending time with the children of our alumni. Their parents can now give them a different lifestyle and hope to pursue their dreams. Even though many of our alumni came from hard places, they have their own stories of success. They are small business owners, college graduates, church members and homeowners. The success of our alumni is the BGC story – watching our kids become proud parents and contributing members of society.

Our mission is Christ-centered and our core values inspire faith and hope for the children we serve. My prayer for every child at BGC is to embrace adventure, connect with family, leave the past behind and believe in the power of our Almighty God. This year we have 13 graduating seniors. My counsel to them is, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6). I love telling the children in our care that their future is as bright as the promises of God, and the challenges they face today will prepare them for a better tomorrow.

What will the family reunion look like next year at Boys and Girls Country? We expect it to be bigger, and we will prepare for a larger venue if necessary. I look forward to hearing more alumni stories and watching their children grow another year older. We are two years away from celebrating 50 years of serving children from the Greater Houston area. Your ongoing financial support will help us prepare for the next generation.

We hope you will bring your family to the upcoming events at BGC. Our annual Pedal for a Purpose bike ride and Spring Festival are right around the corner. Blessings to you in the New Year, and we send our prayers of health and prosperity to you and your family. 💕

Make your contribution online! Give securely online at www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate
Heritage Award Dinner

A Night to Remember

The Heritage Award Dinner, held November 8 at the Hilton Americas, attracted more than 1,000 guests, including many of Houston’s influential philanthropists, business owners and newly re-elected Senator Ted Cruz as a guest of our honorees, Kim and Robert Marling. The event featured stories of the impact BGC makes on children’s lives. Guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment by Jay Leno.

The Heritage Award was presented to the Marlings because of their numerous achievements, both professionally and in their personal lives, which have made a long-term impact on the lives of so many in the Greater Houston community, across the country and for the kids of Boys and Girls Country.

“The children and young adults who call BGC home have faced challenges that our children will never experience. This organization helps each child to overcome obstacles and find love in those who surround them and become their family,” shared Mrs. Marling during their award acceptance speech. The Marlings presented a donation of $1 million after receiving their award. A highlight of the night was a performance by Jay Leno and his generous donation of private tours of Leno’s car collection. His donation alone helped raise almost $200,000. Thank you to our underwriters, volunteers and guests for making the 2018 Heritage Award Dinner a wonderful success. Together, we raised $3.3 million for children from families in crisis! ❤️

Save the date for 2019 Heritage Award Dinner - October 30, 2019

From Our Children

Creating New Christmas Memories

“This year at BGC, I really enjoyed the presents and the people that came out to serve us. I loved learning about Jesus and the story of his birth. My favorite part about Christmas at BGC this year was the celebration with all the volunteers who make our Christmas so special. They were very kind and nice to all of the kids. During my Christmas break, I loved playing outside and spending time with my mom. My favorite Christmas treat is candy canes. I’m really looking forward to turning 13 this year!”

“I love Christmas at BGC because of all the amazing lights around the cottages. This year was my first Christmas at BGC and it was special because of all the great presents I got! My favorite event at BGC was the High Rollers. It was really neat to see all the motorcycles when they arrived on our campus. Over Christmas break, I love going to see my family. It’s fun because we get to spend lots of time with each other. My favorite Christmas treat is red velvet cake. This year, I can’t wait to start playing baseball.”

Louis ❤️

Isaiah ❤️

To read more stories about BGC kids, please visit our website at www.boysandgirlscountry.org

Boys and Girls Country News | Spring 2019
Program Update

Transitional Living Program

Transitioning from living at home to becoming an independent adult can be a challenging time in the lives of young adults. The Boys and Girls Country Transitional Living Program (TLP), implemented last year, is designed to equip students with the skills needed for independence and life on a college campus or a less-structured environment. During the last semester of high school, our seniors move to the TLP Cottage to master the independent living skills they will need upon graduating high school.

This January, four of our 13 seniors moved to the TLP Cottage. They were greeted with music and snacks and a group of mentors. The young adults experienced the move-in process the way it would be in the real world. They completed a move-in checklist and were required to move their possessions within a certain time frame. They signed contracts to keep them accountable for the condition of their rooms, for their behavior at the TLP and the stipulations which qualify them to “graduate” from this program.

“Last year almost every kid in the TLP cottage held a job, completed their schoolwork and finished their TLP curriculum. That shows how successful they can be when they get to college. They don’t need anyone telling them what to do; they learn to discipline themselves,” commented College and Career Program Manager Malcolm Guerra.

The program utilizes a three-phase approach with staff support, curriculum and practical application of independent living skills. The BGC team created a special curriculum based on the Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood program (PAYA) which compiles the basic knowledge our kids need for independent living. It is intended to be finished in 90 days.

Improving communication skills is a big part of the learning process. “Texting is an important tool to stay in touch with our young adults,” shared Cassie Parkin, program mentor. “They are used to asking permission from their teaching parents. At TLP they have more freedom, but they are expected to communicate thoroughly and often so that the mentors are well-informed about their location, schedules and issues.”

In the next three months our seniors will be learning how to collaborate, which seems to be the hardest adjustment. Living with other young adults means coordinating chore duties, cooking and transportation. These times of learning will bring these young adults closer together and also help them discover their leadership skills. It is exciting to see them bloom despite the challenges they encounter.

By June 2019 all 13 seniors will be living in the TLP cottage. The best part is that they do not have to learn by themselves. They also visit their teaching parents for dinner, attend counselling sessions and receive educational support on our main campus. Students already in the College and Career Program visit them often. They get to know each other, share experiences and provide encouragement. The TLP is an introduction to the college experience, and that’s what we aspire to provide.
Nearly 90% of the children who call Boys and Girls Country home come from families living in poverty. Many have lived in substandard housing and experienced food insecurity, and some come from abusive backgrounds. Boys and Girls Country helps to break the cycle and effects of poverty and neglect for children by providing a secure, stable, Christian home environment.

92 + 13 children and young adults called BGC home.

6 high school graduates

17 kids participated in 4H

3 in trade school

Revenue
$5,045,738

Expenses
$5,819,062

To read a complete Annual Report, please visit bit.ly/bgcar2018
Boys and Girls Country
Spring Festival 2019

Saturday, May 4: 11am-5pm

Activities
• Classic Midway Games
• Live Music
• Crafts
• Giant Inflatables
• Silent Auction
• Classic Carnival Food

Music
Enjoy music from local artists throughout the day!

Pricing
• FREE admission and parking
• All-day Children’s Activity passes are $20 (ages 5 and up) or $5 (ages 4 and under).
• Food tents will be on site for an additional charge. Snacks and meals range from $2 - $8.

WWW.BOYSANDGIRLSCOUNTRY.ORG
**What is Spring Festival?**

Spring Festival is a critical fundraiser for more than 100 children and young adults whose families are in crisis and depend on Boys and Girls Country to provide hope, love, support and safety. Your support helps break the cycle of poverty, pain and abuse and gives loving parents to the kids who desperately need them.

Our **mission** is 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.

Our **vision** is that every child has a place to grow up and a sense of being home.

**You Can Help**

- Underwrite a zone or sponsor a booth
- Donate a gift card or an auction item
- Volunteer at the event
- Bring your family to this fun festival

Contact Shannon Smith at 281.290.1288 or ShannonS@boysandgirlscountry.org for details.
Boys and Girls Country News

2018 Fall Highlights

Chris and Alyssa received their Texas Learner Driver Licenses.

Deven had “snow” much fun at Hargrave Military Academy during the Christmas break.

Tirzah worked hard toward her EMT certification which she hopes to receive upon graduating high school.

Kaleigh sold her doe for $30,000 at the Waller County Fair!

Thanks to your support, Heritage Award Dinner was a wonderful success!

Our girls did some late afternoon fishing with their teaching parent Justin during the Christmas break.

Avery and other kids learned how to ride a bike.

We are so proud of Akia who voted for the first time in November.

We had a joyful Christmas celebration with BGC alumni and College & Career students.

Chris and Alyssa received their Texas Learner Driver Licenses.
Day of Wonder brought so much joy in the hearts of our children! Every year some of our dearest sponsors bring gifts and food for Christmas fellowship with our kids.

Our kids had a blast decorating their cottages for Christmas.

Every year we share a campus Thanks N Giving celebration, giving thanks for our blessings and spotlighting service projects in which our kids participated throughout the year.

More than 350 riders from NW San Jacinto High Rollers MC road to campus, bringing our kids Christmas presents.
‘In Memory of’ Gifts
Thank you for remembering someone special with a gift to our children at Boys and Girls Country.

Abby
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Seyler

Gail Adcock
Mr. Sidney D. Adcock

Amy Alderson
Ms. Erin Alderson

Norvell Lee Andrus
Suzann L. Yates Breed

Barney
Mr. and Mrs. William Harkness

James Blumhorst
Harriet Blumhorst Graf

Mark Blumhorst
Harriet Blumhorst Graf

Ron Bolian
Mrs. Betty J. Bolian

Bill Bond
June Hinkle

James Boomer
Marcella G. Boomer

Betty Boswell
Marvin and Mary Jo Boswell

Bernice Bradfield
Robert E. Bradfield

Fred Brumley
Ms. Janette McDonald

Imogene Byassee
Jake and Rose Jacobson

Burley Cantrell
Dana R. Logan

Mary Lou Christie
Ann B. and C.R. Dale

Tom Clapp
Tom and Patsy Patterson

Lonny Coburn
Tom and Patsy Patterson

Katharine Compton
Ms. Sue Brown

Thomas Connell
Mr. and Mrs. William Harkness

John Marcus Dugan and
Bob Dugan
Mr. and Mrs. William Harkness

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Scott and Paige Dunlap

Johnny Eagleton
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Milton and Naomi Ellisor
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Jana B. Ermis
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Eleanor Evans

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Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gillespie and Nichols

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Gary and Becky Groschke

Keenan Hale
Marcella G. Boomer

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David Hendricks

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Gladys Sparacino

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Howard
Kristin Burch joined the Boys and Girls Country community in February 2019 as the Chief Development Officer. Kristin brings extensive experience in non-profit leadership, fundraising, alumni and volunteer relations, management and events. The majority of her career has been in higher education at Georgetown University in Washington, DC; Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC; the University of Houston in Houston, TX and St. Thomas University in Houston, TX.

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

Your Investment in our Family

It takes many resources to provide for our Boys and Girls Country kids. We are just like any other family! The cost includes housing, food, clothing, healthcare, counseling, and teaching parents. Every single investment you make in our children is critical to their success and well-being.

How You Can Help?

- Make a donation by check or online
- Give in-kind donations
- Leave your legacy with endowment
- Sponsor our upcoming events: Pedal for a Purpose and Spring Festival

For more information send us an email to supportkids@boysandgirlscounty.org or call 281.251.4976.

Thank you for your investment in the lives of more than 100 children and young adults! 💘

Mission

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.

For questions about this mailing or to make an address change, please call 281-351-4976. Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of our children and their families.

Make Your Contribution Online!

Your gift today will ensure children from families in crisis a safe home, a loving family, and a future as successful and contributing adults.

Give securely online at www.boysandgirlscounty.org/donate
Thank you for your gift to change the lives of our children!

Connect with us!

Contact Information:
info@boysandgirlscounty.org
Phone: 281.351.4976
Fax: 281.351.4978

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