

GREAT FUTURES START IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY



Spring | 2023

MAKING GREAT FUTURES IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung, and so has the excitement in the air in all our clubs! As you can see in this edition, we have refreshed the design and added some meaningful stories about each of our Clubs. Also, be sure to visit our new website and tell us what you think! Our members have been keeping busy and we are already working on planning a fun packed summer for everyone. Our mission is to empower all young people, especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as responsible, caring and productive citizens.

In order for us to continue doing what we do, I am asking for your help by giving whatever you can give. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope, make a donation on our website to the Club of your choice by scanning the QR code or simply visit bgcatxhc.org/supportourcause. Thank you for letting us share these moments with you. We hope for every child, these memories will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Malinda Pike

Malinda Pike
Executive Director/CEO



TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Watch for upcoming events and help support the youth in our communities!
Texas Hill Country B&G Clubs provide safety, mentorship and a sense of community during the critical out-of-school hours.

537

MEMBERS SERVED IN 2022
by B&G Club Texas Hill Country



NYOI

Club scores were Excellent and Above National Level in Optimal Club Experience



NATIONAL YOUTH OUTCOMES FINDINGS

If I'm the leader of a group, I make sure that everyone in the group feels important.

89%

I feel like I can stand up for what I think is right, even if my friends disagree.

88%

Ways to Give



Mail

Boys & Girls Club Texas Hill Country
PO Box 2307
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624



Scan

It's easy!



Visit

bgcatxhc.org/supportourcause

GREAT FUTURES START IN FREDERICKSBURG



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF FREDERICKSBURG



Spring | 2023

Mission Moment

mission [mish-uhn] moment [moh-muhnt]
noun: a short, inspirational example of how an organization is making an impact.



Mission Moments are examples of when a member or members are noticed living out the Boys and Girls Club mission.

POSITIVE | CARING | PRODUCTIVE

Sometimes we take a break from the regular curriculum when we have School Holidays or as we like to call them “Long Days.” Members are at club all day instead of just after school. During these times, we often have incredible Mission Moments reveal themselves. For our Christmas, New Year’s Eve, and Valentines mini parties, we’ve had members help us come up with the menu, help in preparing food, serving food, setting tables, decorating and cleaning up. We are seeing an increase in the sense of ownership and belonging here at Club- so much so that we’ve had members mention it being their favorite place and some even crying when their parent comes to pick them up too early!

We even have a little friend from Harper who is only able to join us on Long Days since she’s

attends a different school district. She loves coming to our club so much that she’s trying to convince her mom to let her switch schools so she could come every day!

Mission Moments happen every day in our club. From teaching our friends how to play a new card game, helping in the kitchen or even just sharing a smile, our club is committed to empowering all young people. especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as positive, caring, productive citizens.



FREDERICKSBURG

Programs/Activities

Architect Week

During our Architect week, we challenged ourselves to think in new ways! Puzzles and games are a great way to promote the skillset of being an architect. By engaging in these activities, our Members learn to think creatively, solve problems and develop patience. These are all important traits that architects need in order to be successful.

Not only do puzzles and games help with developing the necessary skills for being an architect, but they can also be lots of fun. For instance, we built intricate structures out of edible materials. Using only our shoes, we formed teams that worked together to construct the tallest tower.

One of our fabulous club council members donated a big box of block puzzles to help us practice building and thinking creatively about how to solve problems, much like an architect does! Some spent hours, some spent weeks and some are STILL trying to figure out the solution to the cube snake puzzle and Rubik's Cubes. These types of activities, puzzles and games teach our members a skills they can use their entire lives. They're learning persistence and how to give clear instructions as they work together to accomplish projects and tasks. Many times they realize the easiest solutions are not always the best. We wonder... who among these kids will grow up to be professional architects?



Community Connection

Shootin' Fore the Stars Golf Tournament

Dixie Cope's golf kids helped run the putting contest at last year's tournament. These members gave out instructions on how to play and recorded results. We heard the golfers enjoyed the interaction with our kids too! **SAVE THE DATE** for this year's event, October 2, 2023. Registration will open later in the Summer. Call Dixie Cope at 830-992-1284 if interested in becoming a sponsor or if you would like to play.



134

TOTAL MEMBERS REGISTERED

Members are registered for Spring 2023.



3

SCHOLARSHIPS

Provided by the Club.



1500+

SNACKS

Over 1500 snacks served to our Members this school year.

Meet Garen

I am Garen Fleener, a Youth Development Professional at the Fredericksburg Club and an educator in the Hill Country. I have been working with the Boys and Girls Club of American since joining the Fredericksburg team in January 2021. After a brief stint in Dallas working for BGC Collin County-McKinney branch.



I am back in my true home, Fredericksburg, with the best kids and work family in the entire Hill Country! I am super excited to lend myself to the great work we're always doing here at BGC Fredericksburg.

What hashtags describe your personality?

#driven, #quickwitted, #conscientious, #eclectic

Something you can't live with out?

Mexican Food!

First job?

Lead Cashier at American Eagle Outfitters

Hobbies?

Playing video games with friends, watching documentaries, reading

Favorite thing about Boys & Girls Club?

Honing my professional skillset. Getting to spend time with, play with and getting to the know undeniable best part of the club: the kiddos!

Focusing on Future Careers

This semester we're focusing on future careers. Some of the highlights have been Scientists, Authors and Architects. Spring Break 2023 was Chefs Week! After making our own hats and aprons at the beginning of the week, our Members cooked up a lot of fun foods. We prepared meals and snacks like protein bites, pizza toast and even green rice krispy treats for St. Patrick's Day. Our Members had STEM activities and arts & crafts to round out a fun, successful Spring Break week.



Mahjong Tournament Celebrates 10th Year

MAHJONG IS A TILE-BASED GAME THAT WAS DEVELOPED IN 19TH CENTURY CHINA. COMMONLY PLAYED BY FOUR PLAYERS, IT IS A POPULAR GAME OF STRATEGY

This year's tournament raised over \$13,000 and had about 160 players attend. Almost as amazing, this tournament brings in women from all over Texas including San Antonio, Horseshoe Bay, San Angelo, Abilene, Rockport and others. Players are provided lunch and also participate in a silent auction where items are provided by various donors.

GREAT FUTURES START IN BOERNE



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BOERNE



Spring | 2023

Mission Moment

mission [mish-uhn] moment [moh-muhnt]
noun: a short, inspirational example of how an organization is making an impact.



A first grade child was having a difficult time following instructions and staying with his group. After numerous attempts at redirection, he decided to remove his shoes and refuse to put them back on. As his group was heading outside and he still did not have shoes, he was asked to sit out at the front desk until he could follow instructions. The child immediately began to get incredibly emotional and was very angry and crying. After giving him a minute or two to try and calm himself I engaged him to help him calm down and understand the safety reasons shoes are required. He told me he is just one of those “angry people” and that “no one wants to be around angry people”. After hearing him out I told him it’s ok to feel angry, however, it’s important to be able to stop being angry.

We worked on focusing our attention of our feelings and onto our senses. We worked on

naming **3 things we could see, 2 things we could hear, and 1 thing we could smell.** Pulling his focus off of more complex emotions and grounding into the physical environment around him, enabled him to calm down. He was then willing to put his shoes back on and rejoined his group with an apology to the Youth Development Professional (YDP) for yelling and not following directions. He has since come and asked other YDP’s to help him use his senses to calm down instead of staying angry. This has given him a tool he always has with him to shift attention when he begins to feel overwhelmed.



Programs/Activities

San Antonio Food Bank Supports Healthy Kids

“Miss Tracy!” calls a young girl as she moves in for a hug. Meet Tracy West. Tracy works at the San Antonio Food Bank and has spent the past 12 years meeting regularly with club members in Boerne and Comfort. While she’s all about fun, Tracy’s mission is to help the children make good choices when it comes to their health and wellness. “These children live in a food desert area, so my focus is on teaching them to eat healthy yet affordable foods,” she says.

The fun comes in the form of engaging activities related to nutrition, cooking, gardening, and physical activity. And while Tracy loves having fun with the children, she’s most proud when a child begins to like a new food or learns a new skill, such as using a spatula. In addition to impacting children’s choices, she finds ways to educate their families, too, by sending the children home with healthy snack bags, activity sheets, and informational materials provided bilingually. According to her manager Diane, Tracy, a veteran at the Food Bank, goes above and beyond in her work with our club members...and it shows.

Thank you, Miss Tracy!



Community Connection

Bandera Electric

A couple of everyday heroes from Bandera Electric gave our Members a memorable presentation regarding safety, career opportunities and energy! Each member got their own hard hat and some very intriguing and interesting information. Thank you guys. You may see some of our members on your crew in the future!



125 Elementary
TOTAL MEMBERS REGISTERED

125 Elementary Members are registered for Spring 2023.



7 SCHOLARSHIPS

Provided by Boerne Community Coalition.

LUNCHES PROVIDED

45 for Winter Break
30 for full-days in between

Provided by Boerne Community Coalition.



Meet Ms. Emma

I am Emma Hix, the new Branch Director of the Boerne Club. I have over a decade of experience in early childhood development. I'm also a parent and former Fabra Falcon! I served as Assistant Director of the Comfort Club and I'm so excited to back with the organization in my hometown!



What hashtags describe your personality?

#momlife, #plantlady, #musicislife

Something you can't live with out?

Music

First job?

Car-hop at Sonic

Favorite Food?

Pineapples

Hobbies?

Gardening, collecting gnomes and learning new skills.

Favorite thing about Boys & Girls Club?

Getting to provide a safe place for kids and teens to try new things, learn something new, get help or advice, or even just hang out and relax. The place my friends and I needed growing up!

Spring Break 2023 -

Spring Break was filled with jewelry making, magnetic tile building, Gaga Ball and even some Karaoke. One activity was a stand out above the rest. As the recipient of a grant from **Valero's Benefit for Children**, our club purchased Robotics Kits that promote STEM learning. Our younger members built Remote Control Powered Robots while older groups built Solar Powered Robots. One young lady, along with help from a friend, completed her Doodle Robot, which uses a motor to draw circular patterns. We are excited to continue building on these skills and sharing with members this Summer too.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOERNE
**17TH ANNUAL GOLF
FUNDRAISER**

SIGN UP TODAY!

.....
THE BUCKHORN GOLF COURSE
COMFORT, TX
APRIL 28, 2023

**SHOTGUN START AT 10AM, FOLLOWED BY
LUNCH WITH SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE.**

**NOW TAKING DONATION ITEMS FOR OUR
SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE.**

**Questions? Contact Malinda Pike at
830.997.8241 or info@bgcatxhc.org**

Sign up to sponsor, play or
simply make a contribution here!



GREAT FUTURES START IN COMFORT



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF COMFORT**



Spring | 2023

Mission Moment

mission [mish-uh-n] moment [moh-muh-nt]
noun: a short, inspirational example of how an organization is making an impact.



One of our long time youth members Sarah, currently an 8th grader in our teen program, will be making the leap into high school next year. For anyone who knows Sarah, this is a huge deal for her... in many ways. Sarah has gone through a few things and was very closed off at the start of the year. As the year progressed she began to find little things here and there that made her happy. Our staff began to notice how she wanted to hang out with the littles every now and then and how happy and full of laughs it made her, so we invited her to become part of our Junior Staff Program. She accepted and as much as she enjoyed playing with the littles, they enjoyed playing with her. This did not go unnoticed. After a few weeks, she became interested in their curriculum and activities. She helped the kids with activities, homework and play.

Wanting to become more involved, she came up with new activities at home then presented those ideas to staff. The staff loved her enthusiasm and gladly did the activities. A short time and a

few activities later, the staff asked Sarah if she would like to present her activities to the group. Although shy at first, Sarah did great and the littles were thrilled to hear her. They enjoyed seeing their favorite teen front and center showing them what to do.

From keeping to herself to standing up in front of a group with confidence and joy, Sarah has grown tremendously this year. She is setting the best example for the younger generation of Club members and continues to do so every chance she gets.



COMFORT

Programs/Activities

Little Library; Reading Corner with Ms. Sherry

A Volunteer's Story

Last summer, my Book Club donated a Little Free Library to the BGC, and it got me wondering how else I might help the Club. Ms. Chastity suggested that I might enjoy reading to the "Littles." Since then, I've been volunteering at the Club every Thursday. Over time, I've established a routine with the children: I read a book to them and then they participate in an activity that helps them make sense of the book and build skills, such as collaboration or risk taking. Along the way, I've learned that many of these young children struggle with reading, likely because of lost school time during the pandemic.

One day, after I read Annabelle's Wish to the children, one boy asked if he could read it again to the others. He read it beautifully and then asked if he could take the book home and read it to his parents. This special moment was made even more special for me when the same boy reported to Ms. Chastity that during school his teacher had asked him to read to his class. He proudly announced, "And I did it."

Thank you Ms. Sherry!



Community Connection

Protecting our Children - Drug Free Comfort

On March 28th, during our Summer registration, representatives were here to invite parents to a special discussion about counterfeit drugs containing Fentanyl in Kendall County. Event was held that evening at Comfort High School.

ONE PILL CAN KILL
Parent Education Speaker Series



124

TOTAL MEMBERS REGISTERED

124 Members are registered for Spring 2023.

1500+

SNACKS

Over 1500 snacks served to our Members this school year.



Meet Ms. Carmen

I am Ms. Carmen, Youth Development Professional for the Boys & Girls Club of Comfort. On March 26th, I will celebrate 5 years with this amazing organization and Club. Working with this Club and these great kids led me to realize my passion for youth development and teaching. I work part-time after school here and full-time at a local ISD as a SPED Teacher's Assistant. Working with the kids brings me joy and I look forward to my continued growth within the organization!



What hashtags describe your personality?

#funny

Something you can't live with out?

coffee

First job?

Bending Branch Winery

Favorite Food?

Enchiladas

Hobbies?

Spending time with loved ones.

Favorite thing about Boys & Girls Club?

My boss, kids and fellow youth group leader.

Valentines Kindness Project

Our Youth Members decorated and made Valentine Day cards that were then delivered to residents of our local Senior Center.



Healthy Habits

Miss Tracy, from the San Antonio Food Bank, has met regularly with our Members for the past 12 years! Her mission is to help the children make good choices when it comes to their health and wellness.



Souper Success!!!

On Feb 9th Comfort Boys & Girls Club held their 5th Annual Souper Bowl at Ingenuetts On High. It was our most successful event to date.

Over 130 people attended and enjoyed an evening of various soups from 6 local eateries and over 75 different raffle and live auction items to choose from all in support of our local Boys & Girls Club.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR COMFORT COMMUNITY.



SOUPER BOWL V

2.9.23



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

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Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

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Check out our new
website at bgcatxhc.org !!!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY



**Boys & Girls Clubs of the
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Terry Adams, Safety Chair

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Boerne Branch Advisory Council
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Jennifer Marshall | Michele Morgan
Heather Goodrich | David Soldano
Beth Webster

Comfort Branch Advisory Council
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Staci Decker | Linda Saur