



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE NORTH VALLEY
Chico • Paradise • Magalia • Oroville

Local Kids • Great Futures

The Positive Connection

What's Inside:

Club Members to Mentors 2

North Valley Showdown 3

Upcoming Events

Get involved today! 4

Transitioning for Success

Across the country, students are failing 9th grade at alarming rates. In fact, the transition from middle school to high school has never been more detrimental for so many, with poor and minority students twice as likely to drop out. The transition year of 8th grade is a pivotal time when youth tend to pull away from Club staff, programs and services. When young people find themselves falling further and further behind, getting back on track seems impossible and often times a decision is made to drop out of school. Supporting our youth during middle to high school transitions is more critical than ever.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) vision is to ensure success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members graduating from high school on time and college or career ready. When 1 out of 5 teens nationwide drops out of school each year, we have a responsibility to serve more teens, more often, to ensure more graduates and improve the future of our communities and the nation.

In 2014, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley (BGCNV) was hand-selected by the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens™ to participate in Graduate for Más - a historic

teen initiative in partnership with BGCA to ensure teens make the commitment to graduate from high school with a plan for their future. BGCNV was one of 250 clubs selected out of 4,146 clubs nationwide to take part in this new program. Graduate for Más helped us build on our ability to collaborate with our local schools to identify the youth that are most in need. Between our Chico and Oroville Teen Centers, a total of 89 youth participated in the program.

The Graduate for Más curriculum has two program components. The first, called BE READY, supports youth with the social confidence, organizational skills and mentorship needed to make a smooth transition into high school and remain on track to graduate with a plan for the future. The second, OnCAMPus (College Access & Mentorship Program), supports teens with career planning, the college admission process, scholarship searches, and decision making to significantly increase college and career options. We also incorporated field trips, incentives and guest speakers from the community to create a more impactful program for our youth.

This initiative allowed us to strengthen our partnership with local



CLUB AWARDS

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley recently received several awards from Boys & Girls Clubs of America:



INNOVATION AWARD

We were 1 of 4 clubs selected out of 4,146 to receive this award for our job mentoring programs.



LEAGUE OF EAGLES Bronze Level Award

For the dedication and commitment of our Board of Directors and executive leadership to serving the youth of Butte County at the highest level.

(Cont'd on Page 3)

Club Members to Club Mentors

As the Oroville Teen Center embarks on its eighth year of serving youth in the community, it also begins a new and exciting phase with a team of staff consisting of Club alumni. Some of the new team members, such as Matt Fuchs, had been attending The Club Teen Center since 7th grade. Matt said he and his friends were always looking for somewhere to hang out that was safer than the streets and more fun than home, and The Club became that place. He hoped one day he, too, would become a mentor at The Club.

"Coming to the Boys and Girls Club taught me how to be a leader, be more responsible, value my education, be kind, and treat others and myself with respect," said Matt. "Now that I am a staff member, I am able to give back to the kids in the same way the staff gave to me all those years."

Other alumni staff members include Araceli Garcia-Ponthier, Shane Thomas, Israel Romero, and Shannon Greer. All of these staff members are recent high school graduates and are learning to balance the challenges of college and their first job while changing the lives of youth.

Lisa Spiegler, Oroville Teen Center Director, reflected on the team saying, "There is no better feeling than watching youth grow up with The Club and then value its mission and impact so much they want to dedicate their lives to being mentors themselves."

While their reasons for attending The Club may have been different for each of these young men and women, their reasons for staying are all the same: The Club gave them a sense of belonging they could not find anywhere else. They want to give the youth at The Club the same guidance, skills and care they received since the first day they walked through The Club's doors.

"I am very glad to have the opportunity to give the youth at The Club the same guidance, skills and knowledge that I once received. Working for The Club is about more than the money, it's about being a positive person in the lives of kids who don't necessarily have that."

~ Shannon Greer

"I attended The Club because it gave me a sense of belonging that I had never experienced anywhere else. Now, being a staff member means that I get to be a role model to the kids that need guidance and show them they are never alone."

~ Araceli Garcia-Ponthier

"I began coming to The Club because my sister was a member and it was making a positive difference in her life. Now that I am part of the staff, I'm able to enlighten and guide youth who may be on a negative path and help them so that one day they will help others."

~ Israel Romero



Oroville Teen Center alumni mentors (L-R) Shannon Greer, Shane Thomas, Araceli Garcia-Ponthier, Matt Fuchs, and Israel Romero.

Graduate for Más: Transitioning for Success

(Cont'd from front page)

schools and obtain referrals for students who were identified as needing additional support. We were able to target a larger teen population including teens that had not previously received Club services. Another positive impact of the Graduate for Más program was the ability to place high school students in a mentor role to support the BE READY 8th and 9th graders. These high school students had an opportunity to share past experiences and grow in a leadership role through panel discussions and leading tours at local high schools.

"I was first referred to the Club through my school credit recovery program," said Seth, 11th grade. "I really hadn't thought about my future or what my goals would be after high school. After attending the OnCampus program and college tours I want to pursue a career as a teacher. I look forward to coming to The Club where they help me with my homework and I get to help younger members, too."

We are so proud to report that 100% of the 89 youth who participated in the program went on to the next grade level.

The success of this initiative can be directly attributed to our relationships with the kids, local schools and supporters who helped us empower teens to reach their personal, educational and career goals and ignite their full potential. The most significant accomplishment for our organization was the ability to build and retain supportive relationships with transitioning students in both middle and high school.

"I learned a lot through the Be Ready workshops," said Anissa, 8th grade. "I had stopped caring about school and I was failing. Because of The Club I have brought my grades up and I have learned how to study. I know now if I work hard I will achieve more and get further in life."

Our Chico and Oroville Teen Centers are now in their second year of implementing this comprehensive strategy for our teen members. We are working on strengthening our program through partnerships with Butte College and CSU, Chico. We are grateful for the seed funding from the Taco Bell Foundation and matching funds from the community that made this program possible.

"I had stopped caring about school and I was failing. Because of The Club I have brought my grades up and I have learned how to study. I know now that if I work hard I will achieve more and get further in life."

Anissa, 8th Grade

North Valley Showdown: Encouraging Healthy Habits

During this past summer, Club members from our Chico, Oroville and Paradise Teen Centers participated in a unique health and wellness program to increase physical activity, encourage teamwork and develop good sportsmanship. The program, called the North Valley Showdown, was a fun and engaging opportunity for our youth to stay active. Ultimately, it served to bring youth from our three Boys & Girls Club communities together to promote positive peer interaction and healthy lifestyles.

"North Valley Showdown is one of the highlights of the summer," said Lisa Spiegler, Oroville Teen Center Director. "The youth love being active and spending time getting to know other Club members while having fun. It's a great way to bring the communities together, expose teens to other communities in the county and give the members something to work towards and look forward to."

North Valley Showdown was held at various Boys & Girls Club locations throughout the county over the course of six weeks. Youth participated in variety of tournaments ranging from basketball and flag football to pool and foosball. In

addition, each Teen Center held weekly practices to prepare for the weekly challenge with teen members being peer leaders.

(Cont'd on back)



North Valley Showdown brought together teens from Chico, Oroville and Paradise for six weeks of fun and friendly competition.

Help ensure that every Boys & Girls Club family in need receives a holiday meal, supplies and support - donate today and make a difference!



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OF THE NORTH VALLEY
Chico • Paradise • Magalia • Oroville

Main Office:

601 Wall St.
Chico, CA 95928

P. 530 899 0335
F. 530 897 4614

www.bgcnv.org



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Thank you for ensuring that the most resources go back to our kids and programs!

Encouraging Healthy Habits (Cont'd from Page 3)

"The North Valley Showdown basketball and football games were great opportunities for me to reach out and interact with other youth from different Clubs," said Kieran (17), Oroville Teen Center. "It was a fun and creative way of keeping me in shape and active during the summer."

North Valley Showdown gave Club youth the opportunity to develop positive relationships with others, build leadership skills and feel positive and confident about themselves while learning how to be healthy.

"I loved the North Valley Showdown!" said Rosalie (16), Chico Teen Center. "It was great interacting with the other teens, making new friends and learning more about other teen centers while having some friendly competition and getting a good workout."

Sponsorships for our summer services allow us to create these unique and fun experiences for our members. Thanks to you, our youth learned to have fun being active, be more open minded and create a lifetime of healthy habits.

Get involved today!

SAVE THE DATE	FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS
Tuesday nights through Nov. 17	Crush Italian Cuisine & Lounge Job Mentoring Program ~ Chico <i>Eat at Crush Tuesday nights between 4:30 PM - 8 PM and support our Chico Teen Center youth!</i>
Tuesday nights through Dec. 8	Black Bear Diner Job Mentoring Program ~ Paradise <i>Eat at the Black Bear Diner Tuesday nights between 4:00 PM -7:30 PM and support our Paradise Teen Center youth!</i>
November 18-20	Turkey Time Dinners <i>Help every Boys & Girls Club family receive a holiday meal this year - donate today!</i>
December 17-18	Holidays Around the World ~ Chico, Oroville & Paradise Clubs
February 6, 2016	17th Annual Valentine's Gala ~ Manzanita Place in Chico <i>Sponsorship opportunities available - call (530) 899-0335 for more information.</i>
March 12, 2016	Paradise Cook Off ~ Paradise Elks Lodge <i>Calling all chefs! Call us today to sign up for this FUNdraiser for our 5 clubs on the Ridge.</i>

For more information about these events and our programs or to make a donation, please call (530) 899-0335, email us at info@bgcnv.org, or visit our website at www.bgcnv.org.

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