



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
ARIZONA ALLIANCE

# AROUND THE ALLIANCE

*News and features from Boys & Girls Clubs across the State*

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**Cheyenne Walsh**  
*Board Chair, Arizona Alliance  
of Boys & Girls Clubs*

Empowering our young people to reach their full potential takes a village. A significant reason our Clubs thrive is the constant support they receive from community-minded organizations and individuals across our state. As you'll see from this month's highlights, Boys & Girls Clubs are consistently recognized and chosen for partnerships because the impact made by our programs is direct and real. From professional sports teams to city officials, leaders throughout Arizona demonstrate their belief in the work our Clubs are doing with generous investments of resources and time. In turn, our 114,000 young people see firsthand that there is a vast and dedicated network that believes in them, and wants to give them every tool they need to be successful. We are so thankful for the thousands of Arizona groups and individuals that acknowledge and support us in pursuit of this mission.

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## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley selected for official 25th  
Anniversary Community Project of the Arizona  
Diamondbacks**



On August 11, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley's Arizona Diamondbacks Branch: A Kieckhefer Family Legacy celebrated the grand re-opening of two rooms following a \$100,000 investment from the Diamondbacks and Cox Communications. The Diamondbacks' 25th Anniversary Celebration included unveiling a Makerspace Studio in the Teen Center and a Cox Innovation Lab for youth members. Each room is complete with cutting-edge technology such as 3D printers, t-shirt makers, virtual reality simulators, and music production labs to encourage exploration, creativity, and learning in a state-of-the-art STEM environment. D-backs leadership and alumni joined City of Phoenix officials, Cox representatives, and over 150 Club kids and staff in honoring this monumental investment in the D-backs' namesake Club, nestled in the South Phoenix community. Thank you, Arizona Diamondbacks!

[Watch More](#)

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**Arizona State Youth of the Year Hakima A. gearing up for regional competition**



Since being named Arizona State Youth of the Year (YOY) in April, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson member **Hakima A.** has been busy preparing for the regional competition next month! Hakima and BGCT staff will travel to California with the hopes of Hakima being named the 2023 Pacific Region Youth of the Year and ultimately moving on to compete for the national title. With her passion for civic responsibility, social justice, and a dedication to academic success and mentoring those around her, Hakima will be a powerhouse when she competes on behalf of Arizona Club members. In the midst of preparation for Pacific YOY, Hakima also celebrated her high school graduation and will begin studies in Education and Humanities at Howard University this fall. Congratulations, Hakima!

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## **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor chosen as Maricopa Chamber of Commerce's Nonprofit of the Year**



The Maricopa Chamber of Commerce recently held its Annual Awards Gala at Global Water Resource Center in Maricopa, and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor

received the Maricopa Nonprofit of the Year Award! Thank you, Maricopa Chamber of Commerce, for supporting Great Futures and the youth of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor's eight Club locations.

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## Club kids in need go back-to-school shopping



Throughout the past weeks, Club kids across the State have been preparing for another school year of learning and growth. Back-to-school shopping at Kohl's is an annual tradition allowing Club kids in need to get the necessary clothes and supplies to start the school year right, and eases the back-to-school cost for families. Selected based on financial need and outstanding behavior, Club members across Arizona pair up with a community volunteer to help them pick out essentials like school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and more. Having appropriate supplies and clothing is important to a child's academic success, and new gear for class helps build confidence and pride in these deserving young people as they head back to school. The Arizona Coyotes and mascot Howler even joined in on the fun with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley members in Gilbert!

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## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Boys & Girls Club of Bisbee teamed up with mining company Freeport McMoRan's Copper Queen Branch to develop summer learning opportunities for Club members, including two behind-the-scenes mine tours! Bisbee is well-known for its rich copper mine, and members learned about Bisbee's mining history and current mine operations during their tour. Club kids also practiced geology and explored unique STEM



careers, as they finished their field trip by hunting for minerals like turquoise, azurite, and fool's gold!

## GOOD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

The Sierra Vista K-9 unit paid a visit to Boys & Girls Clubs of Sierra Vista members, giving Club kids the opportunity to see police dogs and K-9 officers in action. Members learned about the essential role these brave canines play in law enforcement, discovered how they assist officers every day, and got to witness firsthand the dogs' impressive skills and abilities that help keep the community safe. The event was a great learning opportunity for all members, especially those interested in pursuing a career in the criminal justice field!



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale opened a fully renovated and expanded teen center kitchen at the Virginia G. Piper Branch! Made possible with funding from loanDepot through its 2021-22 "Home Means Everything" campaign with Major League Baseball, the Piper Teen Yum Hub powered by loanDepot provides a contemporary and efficient environment for Club teens to engage in cooking and healthy lifestyles programs. Teens will utilize the space daily for snack bar sales, culinary programs, and educational initiatives. Chef Fidencio and Chef Pierce from the Maggiore Group



guided Club teens through the art of making empanadas during the grand opening ceremony!

## GREAT FUTURES START HERE

### *Alumni Spotlight: Leonel Cano Leon*

After earning his master's degree in graphic information technology and successfully completing an internship with Disney, former Arizona State Youth of the Year Leonel Cano Leon recently accepted a position as a web and graphic designer at CDM Media. In his role, Leo manages creative projects while employing his talent in visual art. Leo attended BGCAZ's Ed Robson Family Branch throughout high school, and credits the Club's tools and resources with allowing him to become the first in his family to attend college. "The Club brought me into a community filled with leaders and inspirational people who aided me," said Leo. "It changed the course of my life."



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