



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NASSAU COUNTY FOUNDATION**

NEWSLETTER

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YOUTH IMPACTING YOUTH

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKS AS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

When high school senior and local football player, Ethan Myers walked into Boys & Girls Club, Miller Freedom Center, on his first day of work, a Club member was quick to ask where he played football. When Myers replied with Yulee High School, the Club member was fast to tell him that his older brother's team had beat them earlier in the football season. Immediately, Myers realized that this job was going to be unlike the one he had held before at Sonic, the fast-food restaurant, and almost **immediately fell in love with the unique opportunity to work with youth**, something he watched his mother do in her profession his whole life.

Myers is a part of the On-The-Job-Training (OJT) Program at Yulee High School which allows students to use **real-world work experience** to get credit hours towards their degree. Now, Myers serves as a Youth Development Professional for Sports at Miller Freedom Center. When asked about his favorite part of the job, Myers explained, "it's the impact I have on the kids." He went on to say that he has learned a valuable lesson throughout this opportunity about how everyone comes from a different background, and it is important to consider that when working with youth.

Unfortunately, Boys & Girls Clubs will be saying goodbye to Myers this summer as he will be starting at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, where he signed to play college football. **Myers expressed that part of his motivation in his next steps comes directly from Club members** who want to see him on the next Madden and play football in college, the Club members seeming to inspire Myers as much as he is inspiring them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're a **Circle** participant.
Vote for us.

4/1/25-6/30/25: Boys & Girls Clubs of Nassau County Foundation is excited to announce that we are one of the five featured nonprofits for Target Circle Program. Target Circle members can earn and cast votes for a selection of local nonprofits along with other perks. The program is available through Target's mobile app, online at target.com/circle, and in stores.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Ethan Myers & Club members at Miller Freedom Center



Emily Friedman, Ron Blum, & Wes Hinton

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

We were honored to be the beneficiary of Wildlight's RunWild 5K, 10K and FunRun again in 2025. The event had over 1,000 registered participants and raised \$5,000 for Boys & Girls Clubs of Nassau County Foundation (BGCNCF). BGCNCF staff and board members supported the run by volunteering to hand out waters to the participants. **"Partnering with Wildlight helps our community grow in so many ways, we look forward to what we both can accomplish for our local youth,"** shared Ronald Blum, President of the Board of Directors for BGCNCF, after the event.

NIGHT IN NEW YORK

BGCNCF'S 18TH ANNUAL GALA

BGCNCF wants to **thank all of our sponsors and the incredible community** for the support we received at our 18th Annual Gala, held on February 14, 2025, at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. The community showed up in **unprecedented numbers and raised a record-breaking amount** to help support GREAT FUTURES for Nassau County youth.



Unit Director, Sam Daly & Club members



Lily Clark & Club member

We give a special thank you to our Event and Legacy Sponsors.

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YOUTH OF THE YEAR

LORAYA POINDEXTER

Longtime Club member of Miller Freedom Center, **Loraya Poindexter, represented Nassau County in the High School Youth of the Year competition.** Youth of the Year is the highest honor in Boys & Girls Clubs, and helps foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy. This program celebrates the **extraordinary achievements of Club members.**

Poindexter is also the winner of the 2025 David & Betty Berkman scholarship which was awarded at the 18th Annual BGCNCF Gala on February 14, 2025. The recipient receives \$20,000 over four years to help them achieve their academic goals. The high school senior shared the impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on her, "I have a lot to be grateful for. The Boys & Girls Club has played a major role in my extended family village and the supportive staff has been right there along the way as a constant factor and has had a **positive impact in my life.** Being a Club member has left me with such memorable experiences that I would forever be grateful."



Loraya Poindexter

PLANNED GIVING: A FAMILY LEGACY OF SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Susan Clark is no stranger to Boys & Girls Clubs, not only was her dad involved when she was younger, but she spent time as a gymnastics coach at two Girls Clubs in Georgia. Since moving to Fernandina Beach and taking a Club tour at both Miller Freedom Center and Roberts Learning & Achievement Center, her love for the mission has once again been ignited, prompting her to leave a planned gift to the organization. **"It is a wonderful feeling knowing that your support will continue even after you're gone,"** Clark explained. She expressed her passion for the Career Exploration & Workforce Readiness Program that utilizes virtual reality technology as well as the focus on leadership programs that the Clubs have. **"It helps the whole community,"** Clark shared, and she urged people to take a Club tour to truly see the impact that the Clubs are having on local youth.

Clark comes from a long line of giving. She credited her philanthropic nature to her parents, grandparents, aunt, and uncle who left a **legacy of giving** and she sees her ability to leave a planned gift as a way to honor not just the community around her, but also the family that came before her. That mindset is something that she hopes will be passed along to her daughter, Lily, who shares in her love for Boys & Girls Clubs. When asked if she had any advice for people thinking of leaving a planned gift, Clark said, "Just do it," and also advised getting an attorney to make sure you get it done correctly.



Susan Clark

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



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INTERESTED IN A CLUB TOUR?

Contact Tanya Orr, Development
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