

# The Positive Connection



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE NORTH VALLEY  
Serving Butte & Glenn Counties  
Local Kids • Great Futures



**Inside:**  
**YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES**

**RETURN TO PARADISE**  
**A GREATER CLUB FAMILY**  
**HELPING OUR**  
**FAMILIES RECOVER**  
**ADDRESSING THE**  
**OPIOID CRISIS**



"The Boys & Girls Club has become so much more than a place I heard in passing. They have helped me have experiences I didn't know I could have. I feel safe here, it is a family to me now."  
- Maggie M., 2020 Oroville Youth of the Year



## RETURN TO PARADISE

On August 15th, only 9 months after the Camp Fire, schools in Paradise once again opened their doors to students for another school year. Along with the schools, three of our Paradise Clubs reopened on-site at Paradise Ridge Elementary, Paradise Intermediate School and Pine Ridge Elementary School to once again become a safe place for kids on the Ridge during the afterschool hours.

Prior to the Camp Fire, Clubs on the Ridge served our largest population with more than 500 members at five different locations. Our Ridge Clubs now serve over 200 kids every day providing life-changing services and programs. After a disaster, youth typically experience a decline in their school performance and begin to exhibit higher risk behaviors. As an organization we wanted to be sure our Clubs continued to support all Paradise Unified School Club District families, even transporting members at the end of the day to our Chico Clubhouse until their parents are able to pick them up safely. Club members are also starting their favorite programs again including: "Drama Matters" where Club members participate in acting exercises, role playing and improvisation, "Technology Tuesday" with a focus on teaching members how to code robots or build battle-bots to create friendly competition, and "Chef's Special", a cooking program that teaches kids how to prepare healthy food and learn recipes they can make with their families.

We are continuing our commitment to do whatever it takes to put kids first by bringing back their favorite programs and staff. In addition, when Ridge schools are closed during public safety power shut offs, thanks to both the Butte Strong Fund and North Valley Community Foundation, we have been opening our doors at 7:30am for Paradise Club members at our Chico Clubs, providing meals and temporary programs all day until 6pm.

## A GREATER CLUB FAMILY

A big aspect of being part of Boys & Girls Clubs is the connection we are able to share with Clubs from other communities. Thanks to the support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Truckee Meadows (BGCTM), more than 20 teen members from the Chico Teen Center and Oroville Teen Center took part in a three day trip to Nevada to visit their Clubs and meet new Club members. BGCTM also helped set up college tours and transportation for all our members.

The teens visited University of Nevada, Reno where they walked the campus, checked out classrooms, learned about engineering machinery, viewed the library and raced one another around the football field track. A few members now have goals to attend University of Nevada, Reno and play sports. Thank you Boys & Girls Clubs of Truckee Meadows for welcoming us with open arms!



## ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

As the opioid epidemic within our communities becomes pervasive, youth increasingly become the unintended victims. The traumatic experience of growing up within a family and community where substance abuse is prevalent disrupts a young person's ability to thrive. The associated adverse experiences, such as childhood abuse and neglect, put our young people at increased risk for substance use and other behaviors that lead to negative outcomes in adulthood.

In order to combat this epidemic, the BGCNV applied for grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and AmerisourceBergen in order to utilize Health & Opioid Prevention Education (H.O.P.E.), which is a proven K-12 curriculum, to help develop functional knowledge, attitudes and necessary skills to prevent drug abuse.

To gain a greater understanding from our youth, we have created program surveys to assess Club member progress and attitudes towards opioid use and knowledge. Having survey data will leverage youth choice and voice and allow our team to strengthen programs to ensure Club members understand the importance of self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, healthy decision-making, self-efficacy, and positive peer and adult relationships.



## HELPING OUR FAMILIES RECOVER



"I would like to thank the Boys & Girls Clubs for all their support during the aftermath of the Camp Fire...my family was provided with food, gift cards and counseling for my son. There are not enough thank you's in the world to describe my appreciation for the BGCNV." – Erin D. Club Parent

At the Boys & Girls Clubs, we have always gone above and beyond to support our Club families, however, the devastation of the Camp Fire brought an entirely new level of support needed to truly take care of our families. With the support of California Community Foundation, GreaterGood.org, North Valley Community Foundation, and American Red Cross, our organization has hired two full time case managers, Erin and Miranda, to support these efforts. They have been connecting with families, triaging immediate and unmet needs, making direct referrals to outside resources, providing financial support, and helping families return to their pre-fire housing and employment status. Our hope is to see all our impacted families get back on track and to walk alongside them as they adjust to their new "normal."

Over the last eight months, Erin and Miranda have helped numerous families find stability and a new life, resulting in successfully helping 171 families. Currently, they are providing intensive case management to 30 families as they help navigate everything from car repairs, paying utility bills, resume building, job applications, opening bank accounts and seeking new available resources from the Butte Strong Fund. We have a waiting list of 112 families who are seeking support. Our goal is to create a sense of normalcy for our Boys & Girls Clubs kids and families. It will take years to heal and recover and we have so many unknowns, but what we do know is that we remain committed to doing what we have always done – taking care of our kids, doing what is best for kids and never giving up on them. They may have lost their homes, schools and some of their community Clubs, however, they didn't lose their Boys & Girls Clubs family.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PUT KIDS FIRST AFTER THE CAMP FIRE. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.

## ONward! Taking the Next Generation to Another Level

Thanks to a partnership with Old Navy, Club teens have had the opportunity to gain work experience through Career Readiness Empowered Workforce (C.R.E.W.), learning the ins and outs of the retail industry through hands-on training and experience. This is an opportunity for members to get their foot in the door and on track to secure their first job.

This year, at the conclusion of the 6-week ONward! program, three Chico Teen Center members and one alumni were hired onto the Old Navy Chico team! We are excited to see our partnerships and programs having a true impact on Club members every day. Pictured below, Club members (who are now Old Navy employees) are seen supporting at our Pasta on the Plaza fundraiser and at work with fellow members during C.R.E.W. programs onsite at Old Navy.



SAVE THE DATE	FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS
<b>November 14</b>	<b>Champions for Kids Reception</b> <i>Hosted at Chico Nettleton Gym ~ progressive tours and Club program expositions</i>
<b>November 19 - 21</b>	<b>Turkey Time (all communities)</b> <i>Thanksgiving meal served to Club members &amp; families</i>
<b>December 16-20</b>	<b>Winter Festivals (all sites)</b> <i>Join us for holiday fun and more!</i>
<b>February 8</b>	<b>21st Annual Valentine's Gala</b> <i>Hosted at Manzanita Place</i>

### Give the Gift of the Club This Holiday Season & Donate Locally Today!

**605**

There are currently 605 kids on our waiting lists who might not have a safe place to be a kid during afterschool hours.

360 members are currently on scholarship, allowing them to receive hot meals, and transportation.

**360**

**\$9**

Donate today! For \$9 a day you can provide one year of life changing programs and positive relationships for one youth in your community.



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The mission of the BGCNV is to inspire and enable all youth to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

FOLLOW US!