

# The Positive Connection



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE NORTH VALLEY  
Serving Butte & Glenn Counties



THE  
**CLUB**  
TEEN CENTER

INSIDE - YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES:

**Workforce Ready**

**15 Years: Pasta with a Purpose**

**Inspiring Youth of the Year**

**Finding a Love for Reading**



COASTAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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HEAR ARYA'S STORY



"The Boys and Girls Club is not just an after school program, it's a community where youth are given tools to find their voices and are given a platform to speak up about topics they are passionate about."

-Arya P. Chico Teen Center Member &  
Pacific Region Youth of the Year





## WORKFORCE READY

Since 2014, our Teen Centers have offered the C.R.E.W. (Career Readiness Empowered Workforce) program, which exposes youth to job readiness and career exploration opportunities. Teens build resumes, develop strong work habits, and acquire essential decision-making skills while being mentored by local business professionals.

This past summer, 37 teens from Chico and Oroville participated in various job experience programs. They served as camp counselors, gained retail experience, provided customer service, conducted trail maintenance, and studied to earn Federal Communications Commission certifications.

Through hands-on experiences, youth learned to problem-solve, communicate effectively, and work as a team while building lasting relationships. For many, this was their first job experience. By summer's end, they had participated in a fun and enriching program, gained practical skills, achieved personal growth, and developed a stronger sense of community.

Thank you to Forebay Aquatic Center, KZFR radio, Old Navy, Paradise Parks & Recreation and NorthStar for investing in our teens and providing these invaluable opportunities.



## 15 YEARS: PASTA WITH A PURPOSE

In September, we celebrated our 15th Annual Pasta on the Plaza fundraiser presented by Western Weather Group. What began as a modest gathering of fewer than 75 attendees 14 years ago has grown into a wonderful event drawing over 600 community members. The Plaza buzzed with energy as guests enjoyed dinner, live music, a raffle, bake sale, and more! Thank you to everyone who sponsored, attended, volunteered or donated to directly support our life-changing initiatives and programs for Chico youth age 5-18 at our three Club sites in Chico.





## INSPIRING YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Arya has made history as our first California State and Pacific Regional Youth of the Year! Starting with her local recognition as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chico Youth of the Year in October 2023, she progressed through the North Valley, NorCal, and California State levels. In May, she brought home the title of Pacific Regional Youth of the Year. In September, she traveled to Atlanta to showcase her talents at the National Youth of the Year competition.

Although Arya didn't win the national title, this experience was life-changing. She won \$32,500 in college scholarships and will continue to shine as our local, state, and regional champion, serving as a BGCA ambassador through July 2025. Next, she will join the National Youth of the Year Speakers Bureau to elevate youth voices and advocate on key issues.

Arya's journey demonstrates the impact of empowering youth with opportunities and resources. Through our Youth of the Year program and the rigorous process of speeches and interviews, young leaders like Arya gain invaluable skills and the confidence to overcome challenges, emerging as community advocates. Thank you to all who supported her journey, you changed a life!



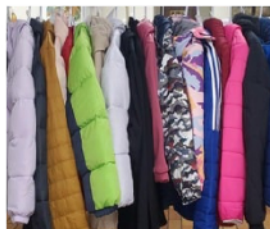
## FINDING A LOVE FOR READING

Thanks to the Chico Sunrise Rotary Club and their dedicated reading coaches, our kids rediscovered their joy of reading this summer through the engaging Read, Listen, and Sketch program. "I liked that we got to draw what we wanted from the story in the book," shared Violet.

Since the pandemic, our kids' reading levels have dropped, but Rotary's program reignited their excitement for books and creativity. Without this program, many kids wouldn't have picked up a book this summer.



# EMPOWERING CHANGE - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



Thanks to your year-round generosity, our case management team provided essential assistance to families, stepping in to meet needs when other resources weren't available:

- **950 food bags for school breaks, ensuring families have pantry staples during critical times**
- 241 families received back-to-school assistance
- **142 children were "adopted" through holiday and back-to-school programs**
- \$66,475 in direct assistance
- **22 families secured and maintained stable housing**

Looking ahead, we have 35 open case management cases, we're committed to the long-term recovery of Park Fire victims and with your support plan to support 600 families with holiday food bags and gifts, creating meaningful holiday moments for all.



## SPREAD CHEER: FILL KIDS' HEARTS WITH JOY

The holiday season is here, and with it, a spirit of generosity and a focus on helping others. At the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley, we ensure families can access the community's support without barriers, especially during this season. Because of your donations we make it easy for families to receive the gifts and essentials they need.

Many of our children and families have faced significant challenges, and the holidays can often add extra stress. By working closely with them, meeting them where they are at, we ensure their most important needs are met. You can make a meaningful impact this holiday season for our kids.

## How You Can Be a Holiday Hero for Kids

- **Gift cards for families (food and/or gas)**
- Adopting a Family (adopt kids and make their Christmas special)
- **\$20 A Bag - Food Support (600+ food bags for holiday breaks)**
- Cash Donations

**Call Erin Kennedy, Director of Case Management at 530.899.0335 to get involved today!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VENMO  
TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES  
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**



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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.

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