



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR

# clubhouse news

*Our Port Club youth preparing to march in San Pedro Holiday Parade.*



## Happy New Year!

*A message from Executive Director Mike Lansing.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity to our youth and share with you a message of gratitude from one of our Club families. This Thanksgiving we held a food drive to provide Thanksgiving dinners for over 300 of our most needy families and included turkeys and food staples for a complete holiday meal. Below is a thank you note we received from one of those families. It just shows that a little effort and generosity can go a long way:

*To all involved,*

*I have tried many times to put to paper the gratitude I felt when picking up the holiday meal right before Thanksgiving. Every time I did words seemed hollow compared to the feeling inside.*

*To help you understand this year, especially the last few months, have been rough. At one point our family thought we were going to lose everything. Far from our extended family with no one to turn to. We are not the type to ask for help and more than likely the one to give.*

*Things are turning around for us. We know we are on the upswing. The meal was one reminder that there are caring people that can bring light in the darkness.*

*From the Bottom of my heart,*

*The Garcia Family (Name changed for this newsletter)*

Special thanks to Board members Bryan Bero and John Vidovich, Palos Verdes NCL and Marymount California University for their tremendous generosity towards this project/effort. I truly hope that all reading this are inspired by this heartfelt message and I hope we all shared the same holiday wish - that every family in our harbor community has something to be grateful for this new year.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy and Healthy 2016!!!

Mike Lansing

### Headlines

- New San Pedro Athletic Center
- Over 11,000 meals served per month in our supper program
- Gift of Reading

### Youth of the Year

**January 11, 2016 5pm to 7pm**  
*Top of the Market Banquet Room at the San Pedro Fish Market*

Join us as we select our 2016 youth representative from our most accomplished high school students. Including a Keynote address from Ariana Berlin, four-time All American UCLA gymnast and inspiration for the TV movie, *Full Out*. Admission is free and appetizers provided.

*For more information on attending and supporting visit*  
[www.bgclaharbor.org/yoy](http://www.bgclaharbor.org/yoy)  
or call (310) 833-0514.



**FREE to join!**

If you are an alumnus of our San Pedro Club or Wilmington Club, please call (310) 833-1322 ext. 249 or visit:

**[www.bgclaharbor.org/alumni](http://www.bgclaharbor.org/alumni)**

Enjoy special recognition and invitations to alumni events.

## Serving 14 Club sites in the Los Angeles Harbor area

San Pedro Boys & Girls Club  
Banning High School  
Barton Hill Elementary  
Dana Middle School

Wilmington Boys & Girls Club  
Daniel's Field  
Fleming Middle School  
Fries Avenue Elementary

Port of L.A. Boys & Girls Club  
George De La Torre Elementary  
Gulf Avenue Elementary  
Harry Bridges Span School

Park Western Elementary  
Wilmington Middle School



*Department of Recreation and Parks Pacific Region Superintendent Carl Cooper, Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Councilman Joe Buscaino and Senator Isadore Hall, III join Executive Director Mike Lansing and our youth in cutting the ribbon of the new Daniels Field Sports Complex.*



## New Youth Sports Facility in San Pedro

**W**hen our organization was first founded in 1937, athletics was the only enrichment program we offered. Through athletics, our first Club members of the San Pedro Boys Club found fun and productive ways to stay safe and socialize after school. For many of our Club alumni, involvement in our sports programs gave them a purpose and motivation to succeed.

We are proud to announce that on November 14, 2015, we dedicated the new Daniels Field Sports Complex across the street from our San Pedro Club. This \$1.1 million facility, built in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, includes a batting cage, golf driving ranges, futsal court with bleachers, ADA accessible ramp and a picnic area. Funds were primarily raised from grants by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with additional funding by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the LA84 Foundation and Major League Baseball Tomorrow Fund.

We dedicated the new facility with much fanfare thanks to the support of Councilman Joe Buscaino and his office. As an alumnus of our San Pedro Club, Councilman Buscaino has worked with Executive Director Mike Lansing for several years to make this plan come to fruition.

Over 300 Club members, Club alumni, classic car enthusiasts and community leaders gathered for our block party and alumni car show to celebrate the opening of the complex. The celebration fell on the 50th anniversary of the dedication date of our current San Pedro Clubhouse on November 14, 1965. Club alumni and Club kids gathered to honor the past while celebrating the future.

Our new facility will be managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks and accessible to organizations with permits for the use of Daniels Field, including our organization which serves over 8,900 youth annually.



*Board member Steve Lopes of USC Athletics coaching one of our youth in the new golf driving range.*



# Daily Supper Program Serves Over 11,000 Meals Per Month

It's supper time! Every day after school at the Boys & Girls Club we host supper time for hundreds of youth. Our members eagerly file into line to receive supper from our Clubhouse kitchens and sit with their friends to enjoy their afternoon meal.

Good nutrition is not only important to a child's physical health, but also their mental development and ability to achieve in school and later in life. Unfortunately, 15.3 million children in America lived in "food insecure" households in 2014 according to the USDA.

We only charge our Club members \$25 for the school year in order to provide our after-school programs to all youth who need as most. The majority of our Club members are from low-income families who seek our services to help their children reach their full potential.

Our daily supper program is a big part of fulfilling our mission because it ensures that our members have a nutritious, hot meal after school. During the 2014/2015 school year, we served an average of 11,456 every month at our three Clubhouses in San Pedro, Wilmington and the Port of L.A.

Each supper includes a protein, a grain and a fruit to serve as a complete, wholesome meal. We recognize that for many



of our members, this supper and the low-cost lunch they receive through their school reduced/free lunch program are the only two meals they will eat during a school day.

This program affects all of our members and gives us an opportunity to make a difference in their lives as well as their overall health.



*NCL Palos Verdes mother-daughter team volunteers packaging Thanksgiving food boxes.*



*San Pedro Club Thanksgiving youth dinner.*

## Thank You to Our Thanksgiving Champions!

This past Thanksgiving we wanted to make sure our Club families who need us most had something to be thankful for. Our seasonal food drive was a great success thanks to some very generous individuals and organizations.

Thanks to National Charity League Palos Verdes we provided turkeys and boxes of food supplies to over 300 families. NCL provided the vast majority of the food donations and volunteered on the day of distribution to meet some of the families they had so greatly impacted.

We also received generous donations from H&R Block, Todd Diebold from Rio Tinto, Lexus and Marymount California University to ensure we reached all of the families we identified as being most in need this holiday season.

This Thanksgiving also saw the return of our Clubhouse Thanksgiving Dinners thanks to Board members, Bryan Bero and John Vidovich, for donating all of the turkeys to feed over 1,200 youth at our San Pedro, Wilmington and Port of L.A. Clubhouses. The holiday dinners give our members the opportunity to share in a festive meal together.

# Celebrating the Holidays at the Boys & Girls Club

## Our Kids Received Gifts from Several Generous Santas

**W**e may not have chimneys here at the Boys & Girls Club but stockings, lights and ornaments had certainly been hung with care in hopes that Santa Claus would visit this year.

For many of our youth, the gift they receive at our Club holiday parties is the only gift they receive for the holidays. Thanks to some very generous organizations playing Santa Claus this year, we were able to ensure that thousands of harbor area children had something to be grateful for this season.

Thank you to the **Los Angeles City Fire Department, A.C. Green Youth Foundation, Mattel, Daily Breeze, Aerotek, Eagle Marine Services and Avalon Labs** for donating the majority of the over 1,600 toys we handed out at our holiday parties.

**A.C. Green at our Wilmington Club Holiday party.**



**LAFD 48 Firemen delivering Spark of Love donated toys to our San Pedro Club.**



## Let's Remember the Spirit of the Season

*Below is a message from one of our Port of L.A. Club members, Natalie Ruiz, about how a little generosity during the holiday season can go a long way in bringing hope and happiness to a Harbor area family. Natalie has been a Club member for over two years. She is a high school sophomore, captain of her high school basketball team and president of our Keystone community service and youth leadership group.*

**L**iving in the Rancho San Pedro public housing community with a blended family of eight, it can be unfortunate when the holidays are around the corner. Living in a low-income household plays an enormous factor year after year. Especially when my five younger siblings are expecting Christmas gifts, a birthday celebration, and even a turkey on Thanksgiving. Being the oldest of six, it's difficult hearing my siblings talking among themselves while they make their Christmas list for Santa.

The holidays mean a lot to me because I get to assimilate the warmth of appreciating my family. Despite the hardships we go through, it has only made me stronger as a person. Thankfully to the Boys & Girls Club, my family was adopted by Councilman Joe Buscaino's office last year. It was one the most fulfilling moments of my life because not only did I get to share such a wonderful moment with my family, but also with the community. Being able to see my siblings go from a sigh to an uplifting smile was an unrivaled time in my life.

I am proud to say that this experience has molded me to be a humble, ardent and ambitious young woman. Moreover, one day I aspire to bring change to the community that I hold dearly to my heart.





# The Gift of Reading

**W**hether for pleasure or future success, reading is a skill that must be taught and nurtured. Unfortunately, it is a skill that many in our local public schools lack. According to the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, **79% of 4th graders and 81% of 8th graders in the LAUSD do not read at a proficient level.**

Helping our members escape this statistic is crucial. We have taken steps in our after school programs to give our students more focused assistance in reading comprehension.

In the Fall of 2014, we opened our Elementary School Reading Center at the Wilmington Boys & Girls Club. This is a room separate from our other program areas where our students can immerse themselves in reading and receive help in nurturing this crucial skill.

Our elementary school members who participate in the Wilmington Club program are required to read several books per week and demonstrate their understanding of the stories. Their progress is tracked and shared with their parents. For many of the families we serve in Wilmington, English is a second language. It is important that we impress upon our Club parents the significance of their child's reading comprehension so that they may support that education at home.

Reading in our Club isn't the only way we are nurturing our members' reading skills. Every Thursday the Wilmington Club students who have been active in the program are taken on a field trip to the Wilmington branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. For almost all of these students, their first field trip to the library was the first time they had ever visited a public library and applied for library card.



*Reading Center Coordinator, Betty Armenta, mentoring a student.*

As our youth age, we provide more advanced reading programs. Diana Chapman at our San Pedro Club has been one of our most dedicated volunteers for several years. She hosts writers workshops for both our middle and high schools students. Our high school centers also host book clubs to remind our students of the value of leisurely reading.

We have been fortunate to have received support for our after-school reading programs. This holiday season we gave our students the "Gift of Reading" with a brand new book to take home thanks to a very generous donation from the Molina Foundation. We received 2,994 books for elementary and middle school students. The majority of these books were given to the students at our school sites to encourage reading over the holiday break with their families.

## How You Can Provide the Gift of Reading

If you would like to support our literacy programs with a donation of new or gently used books or a financial contribution, please contact Director of Development Derald Sidler at (310) 833-1322 ext. 242

If you would like to volunteer to tutor our young readers in San Pedro or Wilmington, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Rucinda Sepulveda at (310) 833-1322 ext. 233

*Volunteer, Diana Chapman, leading a writer's workshop.*



*Our students visiting the Wilmington library.*





# Celebrating 20 Years of Bids for Kids

In 1995, our first annual Bids for Kids auction and dinner fundraiser was held at the former Madeo Ristorante in the Cabrillo Marina. Over 200 guests attended to celebrate this inaugural event that featured a red carpet for a Hollywood movie premiere theme.

Twenty years later, Bids for Kids is our largest annual fundraising event bringing together hundreds of businesses and individuals from around the Harbor area to make a difference in the life of a child.

On October 2, 2015, in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Bids for Kids, over 400 guests ventured back to the Roaring Twenties at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach. While "Putting on the Ritz," guests raised over \$250,000 to support programs for Boys & Girls Club youth in San Pedro and Wilmington.

This is all thanks to Event Chair and Board Member Yvonne Bogdanovich who started Bids for Kids in 1995. She has been chairing the event for the past twenty years, along with Noreen Lane who has been volunteering on the event committee since the inaugural year. For the past several years Gary and Lori Bettis, Jan and Bob Moore, Jay Real of CoachWest Transportation, Raime Quick and Bryan Bero have joined Yvonne and Special Events Director Deanna Deering Flint on the committee to make Bids for Kids a success.

We look forward to celebrating twenty more years of Bids for Kids and thank everyone who has helped us make a difference in the lives of many children.



## Partner Spotlight - Valero

Every year Valero holds the Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children Golf Classic in San Antonio, TX, one of the oldest and most prestigious tournaments on the PGA Tour. Hundreds of Harbor area children benefited from the event in 2015 with \$230,000 going to 16 local nonprofit children's organizations.

Our organization is fortunate to be one of those recipients. As a Platinum Partner, Valero has been fundamental in helping our organization provide successful enrichment programming to the number of youth whom we serve. Thank you to Valero and Valero Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs and our Board member, Steve Faichney, for being so supportive of our programs.



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