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# Monthly Moments

News, Events, and Updates

Issue 22 | February 2023



*Welcome* to our monthly eNewsletter! Thank you for staying connected to our Clubs.

Our Clubs are now safer than ever. Come see for yourself! We welcome pre-scheduled visits and Club tours. Contact **your local club** for more details. Looking for a membership application? Visit our website to join a Club for just \$5 a year!

It truly is a wonderful experience to make a difference in the lives of young people in Fresno County. Give today for your chance to be a part of the BGC Movement. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our mission, values, and programs. Or visit [BGCA](#) to see how we're making a difference nationally.



## Unit Director is Community Hero of the Year

Reedley Unit Director, Jazmine Arceo has been selected as the Community Hero of the Year by the Reedley Chamber of Commerce. She was honored at the Chamber Awards Gala on Saturday, February 25th.

Jazmine's journey with Boys & Girls Clubs started in Parlier. She attended the Club as a member and quickly made the Club her second home. In 2019 she was hired at the Reedley Club and thrived into her current leadership position. She is now the Unit Director and is highly involved in the community of Reedley. She seizes every opportunity to enable young people, make connections for her Club, and advocate for the youth she serves. She is very deserving of this award.

## Youth of the Year Finalist take a trip to Fresno State



On January 26th, eight inspiring teens competed for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County's Youth of the Year title. This honorary title comes with a college scholarship and

much more. Each finalist spent months preparing for this judging event, while carrying out their regular studies, sports games, and part-time jobs. Although it's been weeks since the winner was announced, each of them continues to have the unwavering drive and support to keep moving forward. What comes after high school?

Programs like Youth of the Year prepare teens to thrive and lead in a diverse, global world economy, but the program didn't end on competition day. Two weeks after Youth of the Year all eight finalist took a trip to Fresno State University where they received a private tour, met the Director of Admissions, spoke to the Director of Athletics, ate at Buffalo Wild Wings and immersed themselves in the college experience.

"It's important that they [teens] know their college options. It's a privilege to see them fall in love with their future education on field trips like this. I am glad I got to be a part of it," said Tiara Rodrigues, campus tour guide and Boys & Girls Club Program Director.

During the experience, third place winner, La'Meka said, "I feel like I'm a new car, I'm ready for this, I can do anything! This place has all of the hottest food places, it's beautiful! I can't wait to go to Fresno State, I'm going here!"

According to a recent survey, 92% of our Club members say they expect to graduate high school but only 39% of teen members believe they can go to a 4-year university. This is where the Club envisions change. We want to fill this education gap, break cultural barriers, and encourage all high school students to pursue their dreams.

College field trips like this give us the opportunity to show young people how their life could include a university like Fresno State, and the relationships they build with educators can help them make practical moves towards Great Futures.

"Education at Fresno State sparks excitement about learning together, growing together, and helping each other to become better," said Raymond, first place winner.

At the Boys & Girls Clubs we care about Great Futures. When a member becomes 19 years of age, their time at the Club is technically over but mentors keep supporting when they can. Many of our previous Youth of the Year finalists have returned to volunteer. Some have even become caring staff themselves. It's a wonderful cycle of people caring for the next generation.



See the full gallery [here](#).

Learn more about Youth of the Year [here](#).

Once a Club kid, always a Club kid. [Share your Alumni story with us!](#)

## VOTE FOR US!

We are grateful to be nominated for the [Fresno Bee's Best of Central California Awards](#). Last year, we won the bronze





metal as the 3rd best non-profit service. Thank you!

Will you help us achieve the gold this year?

[VOTE HERE](#)

## Volunteers Become Club Family



The West Fresno Club celebrated years of volunteerism by hosting a small ceremony for Eugene Trotter and Danen “Day-Day” Rogers (pictured). All of the Club members gathered in the gym to thank them for their friendship and the volunteer coordinator, Amaris Castillo presented them with gifts.

“Every day Eugene and Day-Day volunteer their time to assist with programs for our youth at the West Fresno Boys & Girls Clubs and we are so grateful for their kindness and the time they share with our youth. I truly believe West Fresno would not be the same without Eugene and Day-Day. With that being said, we just want to say thank Eugene and Day-Day for showing up every day to serve our youth and for putting in the work it takes to enable our youth to reach their full potential. It takes a village to raise a child-- Eugene and Day-Day are a huge part of our village,” said Castillo.

Eugene has been volunteering at the West Fresno Club for 5 years. His mother thought an environment like the Boys & Girls Club would help him develop skills he lacked as a person with special needs. Eugene has been able to gain work experience by practicing time management, logging in his hours every day, and helping with everyday tasks. He takes out the trash, wipes down tables, passes out snacks to the younger members, and so much more. The Club is a better place when he is around.

Day-Day started volunteering 10 years ago! At first, volunteering was a way for him to gain work experience with a flexible schedule but it soon became much more. Day-Day looks forward to

seeing the younger kids every day because they always make him smile. With this many years of service, Day-Day has watched some of the West Fresno members become young adults. He says he is always surprised by how quickly they accept him for who he is and trust him. "We want to say thank you to all the kids and staff at the Club because you make us feel like family," said Day-Day.



*Share this story with a friend*

### Scholarship Opportunity

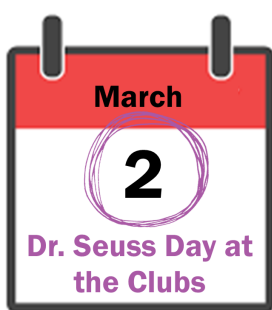


SoCalGas has numerous scholarship opportunities for high school seniors looking to attend a 4-year university, community college, or trade school program.

Not a high school senior? Share this link and make a difference in a young person's life.

LINK: <https://www.socalgas.com/our-community/socalgas-scholarship-program>

### Mark your calendars



On Dr. Seuss Day, you're invited



International Women's Day is a



This ones for the boys! March

to visit a Club and read a Dr. Seuss classic to our younger members. Story time! [Find a Club near you.](#)

global holiday celebrated annually as a focal point in the women's rights movement. It's another great opportunity to educate our members on history and encourage them to envision a better future.

Madness is a male basketball tournament hosted at the Zimmerman Boys & Girls Clubs. If you'd like to join the fun or donate to the event contact Sandra See Chaney at 559-266-3117.

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## WE ARE HIRING!



Whether you have a passion for serving youth in our community or looking to develop your leadership skills, we have a place for you.

## [SEE OPEN JOBS](#)

Full-time & Part-time positions available throughout Fresno County.  
Must be 21 + to apply.



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## WE ARE OPEN!

Contact a Club to get involved, learn more, and become a member! Visit our website at [www.bgcfresno.org](http://www.bgcfresno.org) or [visit your nearest Club!](#)

ZIMMERMAN | EAST FRESNO | WEST FRESNO | CLOVIS | PINEDALE  
JUVENILE JUSTICE CAMPUS | SELMA | REEDLEY  
SANGER | DEL REY | ORANGE COVE | MENDOTA | FIREBAUGH | HARRIS FARMS

### CLUB SAFETY

Clubhouses are modified to support small group learning, temperature checks, parent registration, sanitary practices, and social distancing.

[Donate Today!](#)

Follow us on our socials!



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**RESPECT - INTEGRITY - PASSION - FUN - COMMITMENT**

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