



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF LANIER

# IMPACT REPORT

Summer 2021

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier creates great futures for our youth. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to put kids on a path to **GREAT FUTURES** with programs aimed at building **academic success**, **healthy lifestyles**, and **good character and citizenship**. These stories illustrate the work being done each day that is **transforming young lives**. We always enjoy sharing success stories but especially enjoy when others notice our work first-hand, like this Lyman Hall Elementary School teacher.

"I just wanted to reach out to you to let you know what a positive impact the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lanier has made on our students at Lyman Hall! Your teachers and staff are caring and attend to the children's needs, while also providing a great educational experience. While having a class discussion the other day with my third graders, one of my students raised his hand and shared amazing information about what he knew about myths, legends, folk tales, and fairy tales. I was amazed at the specific details he knew and asked him where he learned the information. Without hesitation, he said, "Boys and Girls Club taught me." You guys provide a safe and loving environment for our students after a long day at school. The lessons they learn while in your care go way beyond academics, as you teach the children life lessons, social experiences, and work to build their character. Thank you for loving our students as much as we do!"

Many thanks,

**Amber Blum**  
SEARCH teacher  
Lyman Hall Elementary



## Alexyss Smith Named YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Youth of the Year, serving as an ambassador for BGCL youth and as a voice for our community's young people. This year, Gainesville High School senior, **Alexyss Smith**, was named **Youth of the Year** and is a shining example that Great Futures start here.

As a Club member for the past nine years, Alexyss credits the support she has received from the Clubs to helping her become the accomplished young lady she is today.

**"The Club has become my home and biggest support system. Without it and the network of people it has provided, I wouldn't be anywhere near as successful as I am now,"**

- Alexyss Smith

Alexyss exhibits strong will and determination in everything she does, which is evidenced by her accomplishments. She has been a member of the Keystone Club since joining the Teen Center and currently serves as secretary. She also has participated in the BGCL Youth Employment Program for the past three years. In addition, she was an honor roll student at Gainesville High where she graduated from in May. She plans to attend Florida Southern College this fall.

As part of her award and as a way to support her as she continues on her educational journey, Alexyss will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship** toward her college education from the **Duane Hinshaw Scholarship Fund**, which was established in honor of former Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Chief Professional Officer, Duane Hinshaw.

# CONGRATULATIONS 2021 Graduates

This year all **11 BGCL members** graduated from high school and are bound for **GREAT Futures**. We are incredibly proud of these graduates and the well-rounded individuals they have become. Each are on their way to college and Great Futures because you choose to support our mission and believe every young person deserves the opportunity to realize their potential. **Join us in celebrating our 100% graduation rate and congratulating these members on graduating from high school with a plan for the future.**



<b>Taylor Brown</b>	<i>Voorhees College</i>
<b>Raveen Littlejohn</b>	<i>Alabama A&amp;M University</i>
<b>Shy'la Jones</b>	<i>Georgia State University</i>
<b>Malique Stringer</b>	<i>Coffeyville Community College (Athletic scholarship)</i>
<b>Alexis Austin</b>	<i>Tennessee State University</i>
<b>Kendal Glasper</b>	<i>Tennessee State University</i>
<b>Kayla Hendrix</b>	<i>Tennessee State University</i>
<b>Jahmeil Cantrell</b>	<i>University of North Georgia</i>
<b>Trinity Seagers</b>	<i>Spelman College</i>
<b>Emmanuel Simela</b>	<i>Berklee College of Music</i>
<b>Alexys Smith</b>	<i>Florida Southern College</i>

## WELLNESS Wednesday

Many young people develop social and emotional skills through situational learning methods, which are woven throughout Boys & Girls Clubs programs and activities. This year we incorporated more wellness specific activities into our programming. Wellness Wednesdays, **a program focused on social-emotional learning and mental health** began.

Our youth are learning about and discussing feelings and emotions, participating in mindfulness activities or meditation, practicing yoga, and learning about self-care and character words. **This programming creates a safe environment where youth are better able to recognize their feelings and the feelings of others while developing strategies to regulate their emotions.** They are also better equipped to handle strong emotions, make better decisions, and respond to conflict.



Congratulations to Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier alum **Christen Copeland** who graduated in May from **Georgia College & State University** with a bachelor's degree in marketing and a 3.47 GPA. She plans to continue to expand her two businesses **"Fa\$hion the Brand"** - a clothing line and **"Pluggedbycope"** - a shoe resale company, and open her own store front in May of 2022. We're proud she was a Club kid and wish her much continued success.



## NGHS Partnership

We are proud to announce **Northeast Georgia Health System** as the official healthcare partner of Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier, and we appreciate their continued commitment to helping create Great Futures for kids.



Northeast Georgia Health System