



IMPACT REPORT

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LANIER

February 2023

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier helps kids and teens achieve **GREAT FUTURES** by providing a fun, safe, and encouraging environment. We focus on building **academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship** for all young people.

2023 YOUTH OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. This year, we are proud to have three Club members competing for the title of 2023 Youth of the Year.

The Youth of the Year winner is awarded a scholarship from the **Duane Hinshaw Scholarship Fund** and will go on to compete at the state level. Locally, the Youth of the Year program is supported by a grant from the Clipper Petroleum Foundation.



JAEMY QUITO CRUZ | 9th grade

Gainesville High School

"Before coming to the Club, I was very shy and closed off. I wasn't good at making friends or socializing in general. The Club helped me a lot with that. I've learned what good and bad friendships are."



XAVIER JACKSON | 10th grade

Gainesville High School

"As a member of the Club, I am doing well in school and plan to go to college. The Club is more than just a youth organization... It is a place where you can achieve your goals."



JAIYAH STRINGER | 12th grade

Gainesville High School

"When I reflect on my time at the Club, the first word that comes to my mind is gratitude... The Club has been a positive outlet for me to finally be able to express myself."

SUCCESS STORY: LUCIANA | 2ND GRADE

Luciana and her family moved to Gainesville, GA from Colombia in December 2022. Her parents were eager to find an after-school program where she felt comfortable while they continued settling into their new environment. When her parents met Club director, Sara Escamilla, they were thrilled they could communicate in their own language and immediately felt welcome. In the short time that Luciana has been in our program, she has overcome language and cultural barriers. She is quickly picking up the English language and is not afraid to advocate for herself with our Spanish-speaking staff.

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Northeast Georgia Health System



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THE BERT & MARY EMMA ENDOWMENT FUND

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Lifestyle Scholarship, provided through the Bert & Mary Emma Endowment Fund, is awarded to Club members who have, over time, demonstrated friendship, service, and dedication to being the best that they can be and inspiring others to improve their lives. The scholarship will allow Club members to attend summer camp, after-school programs, enrichment programs, and more. Thank you, Bert and Mary Emma, for your dedication to the lives of young people.

HOLIDAY CHEER AT THE CLUB

The Joseph F. Walters Club had a special visit from Boys & Girls Clubs of America to celebrate the holidays. Santa Claus stopped by to deliver gifts while kids and their families enjoyed special performances, fun activities, and a delicious meal.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ARI GUZMAN

Joseph F. Walters Club Director, Ari Guzman, has been serving youth at Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier for 10 years. Ari is dedicated to the lives of young people and she plays an important role in their success.

"I love the opportunity to teach the kids, meet them where they are, and be part of their families. I want parents to feel as involved as possible. We target more than just academics. We instill good character, determination, and hard work in our members. We teach how important wellness, activity, and education is for our youth. I look forward to giving those kids the smiles and hugs they may not be getting at home and giving them a safe space to feel important."

- Ari Guzman



CHRISTMAS ON GREEN STREET

For the first time ever, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier participated in the annual Christmas on Green Street parade! Club members spread holiday cheer as they proudly walked down historic Green Street.



LANIER FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

Clubs competed against one another in an organization-wide co-ed indoor soccer tournament over three days at the Positive Place Club gym. The Gainesville Exploration Academy Club Team was deemed Champions of Lanier. Thank you to Mike Crumbley from Kaiser Permanente for donating gifts and shin guards to the kids.



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