



Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County

Welcome Home... to Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County Alumni Association!

Every child loves a good story - for a good story sparks imagination and inspires children to dream beyond the boundaries and routines of everyday life. If you are a former Boys Club or Boys & Girls Club member from any branch across the United States and NOW live or work in Manatee County, we want to hear your inspirational stories of growing up in the Club and its impact on your life today.

Apply now and share your story of how you are a part of the 57% percent of BGCA alumni that credit the clubs they grew up in with changing their lives for the better. Becoming a member is easy!! Our only goal is to document the impact our organization, as well as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, has had locally. And by communicating this success with our youth, create even more inspiring stories in the years to come.



www.bgcofmanatee.org

Keep in touch! Email us at alumni@bgcmanatee.org

Or give us a call at 941-761-2582



Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County

Getting Started ...

The Boys Clubs of Manatee County, under the guidance of the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton, interested individuals, and other civic groups, began operation in February 1946 as an affiliated member of Boys Clubs of America, in a frame wooden building which had been used as a field house for major league baseball teams training in Bradenton. The old Boston Braves continued to use the building as a dressing room during spring training for several years after the Boys Club obtained the property. The Boys Club became a member of the Manatee County Community Chest in 1946. In 1951 the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton constructed the gymnasium at a cost of \$80,000 equipped.



In 1957 the people of Palmetto cooperated with the Boys Club of Manatee County in extending the program north of the Manatee River. A baseball program was launched in the summer and in November 1960 the Palmetto Branch began its full-time operation in a small frame building, which was acquired from the First Methodist Church of Bradenton.

In April of 1963, the area of operation more than tripled when the Board of Directors acquired a building from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In April of 1970, a capital fund campaign for the construction of a new Boys Club building was conducted. The new Palmetto Boys Club building was completed in March of 1971.

The Bayshore Branch opened its doors on July 19, 1965 in a loaned store located in the Bayshore Gardens Shopping Center in south Manatee County. Following a capital fund drive, the new facilities for this branch were dedicated in May 1968 with the name changed to the DeSoto Boys Club. The Building Expansion Program was completed in September of 1978.

In 1992 the organization made a major change by opening membership to girls and changing the name to Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. This necessitated staffing adjustments and some facility renovation.

In April 1998 in East Bradenton at the Page Housing Project a fourth Boys & Girls Club opened for the children in that area.

An opportunity to provide Boys & Girls Club activities in the Pride Park area came to light in the summer of 2002. With a grant from the John S. and James. L Knight Foundation, the Harlee Boys & Girls Club is open before and after school in the Sara Scott Harlee Middle School. Currently, 71% of the middle school students enrolled are club members.

In October 2007 the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County received a grant from Manatee Country Children's Services Board to begin operating an after school program at Southeast High School. On December 19, 2007 The Club at Southeast High School became our sixth club.

In 2010 the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County built and opened a brand new Palmetto Club for the youth of Palmetto. The facility features a 10,000 square-foot gymnasium that seats 380, a weight room, a large computer lab with 30 high tech computers, separate work/play space for teen and pre-teens, a huge game room, an art center, and a high tech conference room. Today the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County serves over 3,000 young people, ages 6-17.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
VIEW FROM THE NORTHWEST

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WELCOME HOME

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB ALUMNI

YOU NEEDED US THEN. WE NEED YOU NOW.

Membership Information:

The 2011 membership drive is under way. A minimum of \$25 is all it takes to join, and you do not have to be a past Club member to be eligible. All proceeds paid to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County to support the Club's activities.

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$25
Family... ..	\$50
Mentor.....	\$250 *sponsor a child for a summer
Lifetime	\$1,000 *sponsor a child for a year
Milbanks Society	\$10,000

All gifts are tax deductible.

Member Benefits:

\$25 Individual:	Alumni pin, newsletter, listing on bgcofmanatee.org "Alumni" page
\$50 Family:	Alumni pin; newsletter, listing on bgcofmanatee.org "Alumni" page
\$250 Mentor:	Alumni pin; newsletter, listing on bgcofmanatee.org "Alumni" page; ticket to our annual dinner
\$1,000 Lifetime:	Alumni pin, newsletter, listing on bgcofmanatee.org "Alumni" page; Two tickets at our annual dinner, recognition on our club donor wall
\$10,000 Milbanks Society:	BGCA pin, plaque and on permanent placard on the BGCA mobile kiosk; alumni pin, newsletter, donor recognition spotlight in e-blast and in Newsletter; special & permanent highlight on Webpage; guest and honoree at annual dinner; recognition on our club donor wall.

(Jeremiah Milbank, a founding member of the Boy & Girls Clubs of America along with President Herbert Hoover; gave of himself generously; had a life-long concern for youth and those less fortunate has changed the lives of millions and is the inspiration of the Jeremiah Milbank's Society)

Study Shows Clubs Work

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has been changing young lives since 1860 when the first Club was organized. An independent study of Club alumni confirms what Club professionals and alumni have known all along. Clubs work.

Results of this study indisputably prove that the Club experience gives children advantages that last a lifetime. Clubs throughout America - and affiliates overseas - are providing the guidance and care needed to turn young lives around. In fact, more than half of Club alumni recently surveyed say the Club saved their lives.



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The Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County has been changing the lives of children in our community since the opening of our first Club in Bradenton in 1946. Today, we serve over 3,000 children per year from Clubs located in Bradenton, Palmetto, DeSoto, Harllee Middle and Southeast High. We are bringing together former club members from across the country to establish our inaugural Alumni Association for Manatee County. If you currently live or work in Manatee but are originally from another club, you are considered one of our local alumni.

Please provide your information below so we can recognize your membership and support of our Clubs.

Name: _____ Today's Date: ____/____/____

Club Attended as a Child: _____ City / State: _____

Current Occupation /Employer: _____

Contact Info:

Address: _____

City/ Zip : _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature

Individual \$25

Family \$50

Mentor \$250

Milbanks Society \$10,000

Lifetime \$1000

Please mail payments with application to:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, P.O. Box 280, Bradenton, FL 34206

Follow us on Facebook- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County Alumni

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