

# Great Futures

Opening Doors at Boys & Girls  
Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA

**Winter 2019**

# Letter from the President



**Vision 2020:**  
“Make a lasting impression on the Virginia Peninsula and surrounding communities by providing youth the skills and encouragement to graduate from high school with a plan for the future to live as healthy and productive citizens.”

Dear Friends,

As we enter 2019, we strive to fulfill our mission - “to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.” Your Boys & Girls Club served well over 6,000 youth in 2018 through membership and community partnerships, providing a much-needed, safe place to go after school.

Our outcomes, shared in this newsletter, support our great work. In fact, 54% of Club Alumni say that the club saved their life. Our reputation as the premier youth development organization in both the region and the state remains steadfast.

However, like other non-profits, Boys & Girls Clubs are faced with tremendous challenges, including a scarcity of resources, changing tax laws that may adversely affect donor giving, and an ever-changing and challenging political climate.

One thing that will not change in 2019 is our youth - those who need Boys & Girls Clubs. Last Spring, we lost two teens from Marshall Courts to gun violence. This is not acceptable, and we must do our part to serve the community and change this trend.

While we have made tremendous progress, we are not done yet. This year, we will continue to enhance our quality programming and positive youth outcomes. We will also focus on safety - both physical and emotional, as our youth must feel safe in the clubs, even if they do not feel safe in their community. Lastly, we must continue to ensure that our organization fulfills our promise to provide a safe place for youth that positively impacts their lives.

Because of YOU, our youth have the opportunity for great futures. Thank YOU for helping create tomorrow’s leaders!

Harold B. Smith  
President & CEO

# Teacher in Training

Teen Club Member provides homework help and supplies to others

Samiya saw a need, and she immediately wanted to help. This fall, the 14-year-old 8th grader took over the Power Hour program, which provides afterschool homework help and tutoring, for the 6-8 age group at the Greater Hampton Roads Club.

“I like helping people,” said Samiya. And it’s really that simple. She hopes to be a teacher one day and thought the experience would be helpful for her, while also being able to assist younger Club members.

“Someone at school recently checked in on me to make sure I was doing what I needed to do – that I could read well, that I was studying the right way, and that I had good handwriting – and I realized that the younger

kids could probably use that same coaching,” said Samiya.

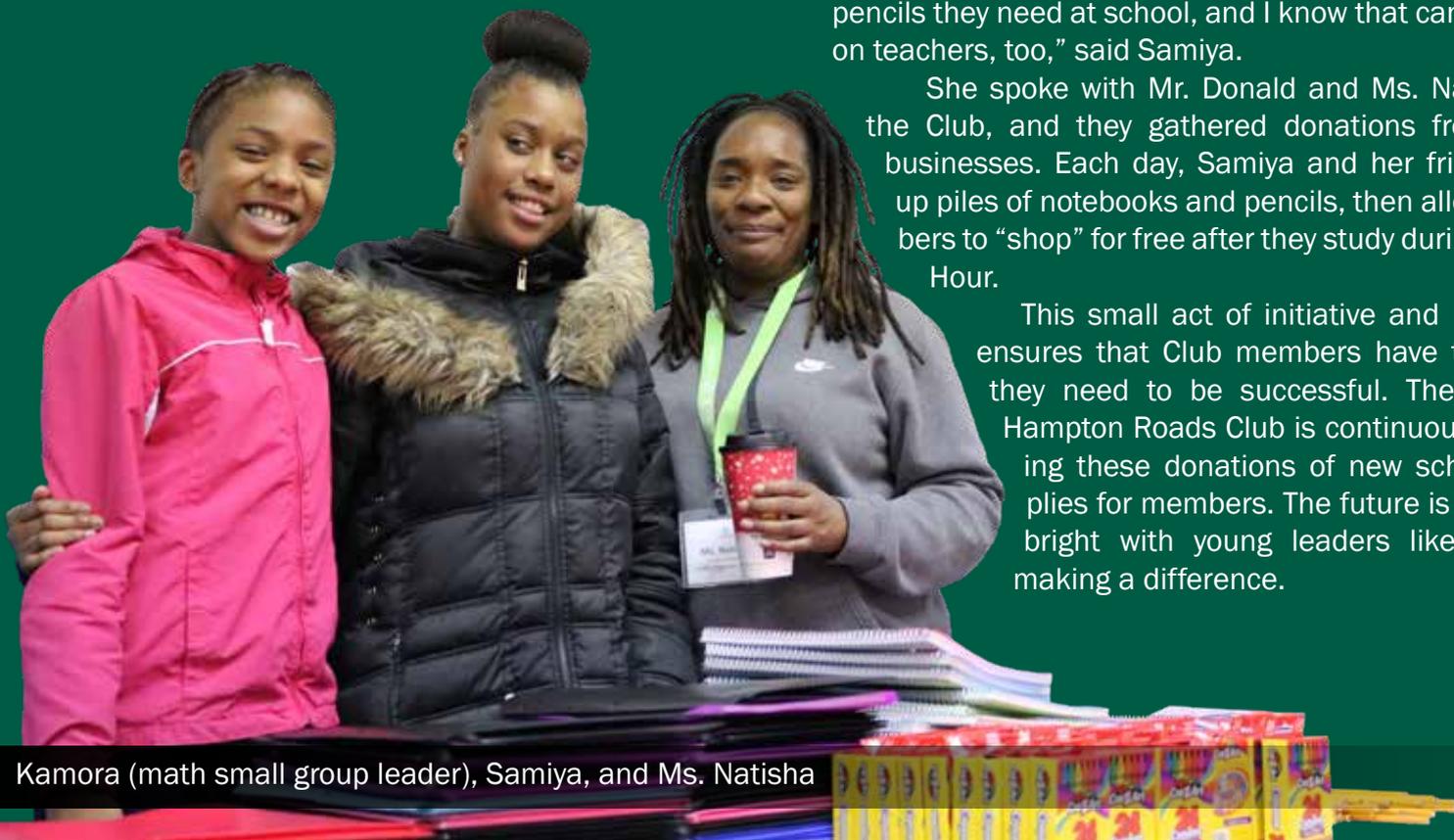
Samiya keeps three crates of worksheets, books, and booklets to keep Club members busy. Each participant keeps their own folder with completed work to track progress. At the beginning of Power Hour, participants choose whether to do their own homework or join a small group – math or reading – to practice specific skills. Samiya has recruited her friends to help run the small groups.

But once she started the tutoring, she found another challenge.

“A lot of the kids don’t have the notebooks and pencils they need at school, and I know that can be hard on teachers, too,” said Samiya.

She spoke with Mr. Donald and Ms. Natisha at the Club, and they gathered donations from local businesses. Each day, Samiya and her friends set up piles of notebooks and pencils, then allow members to “shop” for free after they study during Power Hour.

This small act of initiative and kindness ensures that Club members have the tools they need to be successful. The Greater Hampton Roads Club is continuously seeking these donations of new school supplies for members. The future is certainly bright with young leaders like Samiya making a difference.



Kamora (math small group leader), Samiya, and Ms. Natisha

# Teens Lead the Way



## York Club expands teen programs and attendance

The York County Club is a unique partnership with the York County School District, since the Club was built as an addition onto York Middle School in 2011. While Boys & Girls Club organizations across the country have inquired about the success of this model, recruiting and maintaining a teen population can be challenging because the Club is located within the middle school.

“Early conversations in York County started around a teen center,” said Board Member Paul Garman. “We wanted to provide something constructive for young adults in our community, so attracting teens was a priority for this facility.”

Club staff must create and implement activities specifically geared for high schoolers in order to attract them back to the middle school, and that’s exactly what Club Director Eric Battle has done.

The Keystone Club is a civic engagement group for Club members ages 13 and older. They elect officers, volunteer in the community, and fundraise in an effort to attend the National Keystone Conference. They manage a “snack store” in the Club each afternoon to raise funds. These Club members also coordinate Club activities. For example, the York Keystone Club is currently organizing a dance fundraiser for Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters this spring.

Another successful program is Junior Staff, which recruits teens to serve in leadership roles within the Club. They’re charged with certain responsibilities, such as prepping, serving, and cleaning up after Eat SMART meals; answering the phone and greeting parents and guests as front desk assistants; and tutoring and assisting as junior leaders for the younger age groups. In conjunction with their roles, Junior Staff members receive

lessons on customer service, workplace ethics, goal setting, and organization skills.

Lastly, Club Director Eric Battle cites strong relationships with York High School. The elementary kids that attended the Club when it opened in 2011 are now in high school themselves, which has helped with word of mouth recruitment. Their continued attendance is also a testament to the Club staff’s programming efforts.

“We have strong relationships with the elementary, middle, and high school that allows us to recruit new members, communicate with teachers about current members, and share information as appropriate to make sure Club members are getting all of the resources they need,” said Club Director Eric Battle.

Because of these efforts, the Average Daily Attendance for teens has more than doubled, from approximately 12 per day to 30 per day.



# By the Numbers

According to our 2018 Local Youth Outcomes Initiative survey...

**97%** of Club members believe there is an adult in the Club who believes in their future success.

**98%** of members expect to complete High School.

**96%** of members abstained from cigarette smoking.

**81%** of members engage in physical activity three or more days per week.

**89%** of members believe they can stand up for what is right, even if their friends don't agree.

# Visit Us!

Mark your calendars for Boys & Girls Club Week

Open the door, take the tour! This year's Boys & Girls Club Week is April 8 – April 12. This special week celebrates our Boys & Girls Clubs and the generous community supporters who keep the Club doors open. We'll have tours, spirit days, and activities throughout the week, so be sure to follow along on Facebook!



# Want an easy way to help?



Everyone needs groceries, but did you know that you can shop for a good cause? In just a few easy steps, you can link your Kroger Plus Card to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula and earn money for us while you do your grocery shopping!

- Step 1: Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and sign-in to, or create, your Kroger Plus account
- Step 2: Click "My Account" in the drop-down menu under your name
- Step 3: Click "Community Rewards" from the column on the left
- Step 4: Search for our unique ID Number VB932 and click "Enroll"

# Dominion Energy Kick-Starts Big

Club alumni, working at Dominion Energy, return for Volunteer Day



The Greater Hampton Roads Club is getting a major make-over thanks to the generosity of Dominion Energy. The gamesroom, which is a multi-purpose space for group activities, tutoring, dining, and table games like ping pong and pool, will be named the Dominion Energy Activity Center.

The new Activity Center is being completely renovated with new floors, a new computer lab, new library, and a fresh coat of paint, providing the kids and teens with a much-needed area to spend their afternoons and summers.

Employees from Dominion Energy, wanting to be helpful through the renovations, kicked off the project with a Volunteer Day on January 9. Volunteers painted the kids' cubbies, painted a room by the entrance, and installed the cubbies to make a new cubby room for members' belongings. They also deep cleaned the kitchen, painted trash cans, and fixed spots on the gym walls and floor.

Melanie Rapp Beale, External Affairs Manager, organized the project

*“We RAN to the Club, I mean RAN, each day. It was our safe haven, and our place to be and do.”*

*- Earnest Greene*

Earnest Greene, Hal Smith, Melanie Rapp-Beale, “Poo” Johnson, and Sylvester “Sly” Pope (from left to right) pose for a photo during the volunteer clean-up..



# Plans



and recruited 16 volunteers from various departments at Dominion Energy. She and her husband also donated a 6-foot white board for the new study space and two new microwaves for their sparkling kitchen.

This event was extra special because two Dominion Energy employee volunteers attended the Club back in the 70's and 80's, including Sylvester "Sly" Pope, Supervisor at Power Generation for the Operations and Fuel Handling Department.

"The Club gave me direction and positive activities to keep us out of trouble," said Pope. "I'm excited to visit the Club and give back."

Earnest Greene, who also attended the volunteer day, is the External Affairs Manager for the Southside Virginia region and attended the Club through high school in the 1980s.

"The Club was my safe haven, and it showed me that I could achieve whatever I wanted if I put my mind to it," said Greene. "I graduated from Howard University, and I was the first in my fam-

ily to receive a college degree."

Earnest and Sly were reunited with their Club Director, James "Poo" Johnson, when he visited.

"I told these men, you needed the Club back then. Now, the Club needs you, and it makes me proud that you're giving back," said Johnson.

The men reminisced on their time together, including a city-wide horseshoe tournament that Sly won as a boy while representing the Hampton Roads Boys Club and hanging out together playing basketball and talking.

"I remember spending time listening to Poo Johnson and soaking up nuggets of wisdom and advice. It's the kind of thing where you knew it was good, but I wasn't sure what to do with it at the time. Looking back, they really pointed me in the right direction," said Greene.

The rest of the renovation project, including new paint, flooring, and a new computer lab, will be completed before the summer program begins this year.



*"The Club gave us good activities and a positive influence to stay out of trouble. Our mom worked all day, so it was a safe place to go."*

*- Sylvester "Sly" Pope*

Earnest Greene (right) and Michele Benson (Chief Development Officer at BGCVP) look over a yearbook that Mr. Greene brought in from his time at the Club.



# The Chief's Challenge

Newport News Police partner for athletic league



In November, Newport News Police Department (NNPD) kicked off a Police Athletic League partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs called Chief's Challenge Basketball League at the Greater Hampton Roads Club. Eight teams from each of the eight Clubs in Newport News recruited a five-person basketball team with one sworn NNPD officer coach. The league is a three-on-three contest that will culminate in a single elimination tournament.

"There's a lot more going on than just basketball," says Chief Steve Drew. "As police officers, we have an opportunity and obligation to keep the youth of our community safe and help them realize their full potential as productive members of society."

The Chief's Challenge helps participants improve their social skills, increase self-esteem, practice positive conflict resolution, and have fun in a safe, supportive environment. While this first league is for boys, NNPD is working with the Clubs on other youth-related activities, including some specifically for girls.

Police Athletic Leagues are a nation-wide initiative meant to prevent juvenile crime, develop relationships between youth and officers, and build positive associations of officers' roles. Across the nation, this program serves more than one million youth ages 5 to 18.

The public is invited to attend the games, which are held Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Reebok Court in the Greater Hampton Roads Club.



Community & Youth Outreach Division Commander Morgen Tietjens (right) with Captain Jill Daszowski

## Helping Make Futures Great

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the corporations, foundations, and non-profit partners who have provided us with grants since July 1st. You make a difference in the lives of children and help to open doors for Great Futures today and along the way.

Anthem Foundation

Altria

Bridgestone

Cal Ripken Foundation

Community Knights

Daily Press-Ferguson Holiday Fund

Delta Dental

Gloucester Community Foundation

J. Edwin Treacle Foundation

Langley for Families Foundation

Mathews Community Foundation

No Kid Hungry

Optima Health

Rite Aid

Sentara Foundation

Taco Bell Foundation

Virginia Natural Gas

WAWA Foundation

# Dishing Out Skills

Volunteers teach cooking classes in Hampton

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula monitors three priority outcomes – Academic Success, Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. Club members receive a hot, healthy meal at the Club each day, but they must also be equipped to feed themselves at home, too. The Citizens Club in Hampton has partnered with S.A.M.E. (So All May Eat) from Hampton Baptist Church to host cooking classes once a month.

***“S.A.M.E. focuses on dishes with simple ingredients likely already in the fridge that can be made with either no or limited oven use so our teens can take care of themselves or help out at home.”***

***-Keisha Waller  
Citizens Unit Director***

The partnership started when one of the engineers that tutors on Tuesdays and Thursdays introduced Unit Director Keisha Waller to his wife, Amy Witcover-Sanford. Amy runs the group S.A.M.E., So All May Eat. The two organized a cooking class to be hosted at Hampton Baptist Church’s kitchen, and they’ve made dishes such as bean dip and scones. They’re currently working with 10 teens at a time in class.

“A lot of teens go home alone,” explained Unit Director Keisha Waller. “S.A.M.E. focuses on dishes with simple ingredients likely already in the fridge that can be made with either no or limited oven use so our teens can take care of themselves or help out at home.”

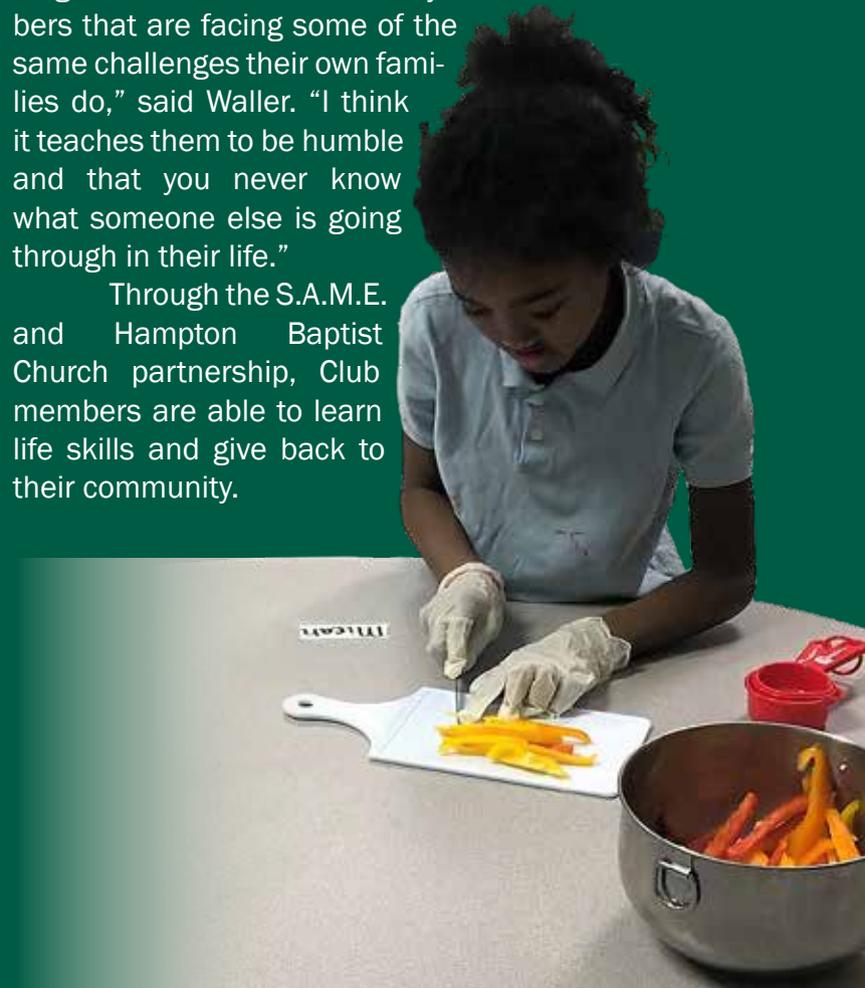
The cooking class also gives Club members exposure to a new community resource and teaches them to treat other places with respect.

“It’s great to see the kids clean up after them-

selves after the cooking class to make sure it’s just as clean as when they got there, and without being asked,” said Waller.

The partnership also extends to the Keystone Club, a Boys & Girls Club teen leadership initiative for members ages 13 and older. After multiple service projects and planned events, the Citizens Keystone Club received their charter in 2018. Once per month, the teens assist Hampton Baptist with the mobile food pantry visit by helping people shop, carrying bags, and packing cars. “It can be eye-opening for the Club members to see neighbors and other community members that are facing some of the same challenges their own families do,” said Waller. “I think it teaches them to be humble and that you never know what someone else is going through in their life.”

Through the S.A.M.E. and Hampton Baptist Church partnership, Club members are able to learn life skills and give back to their community.



# Embracing Creativity

## Clubs host Fine Arts Show at Patrick Henry Mall



The Clubs hosted their 3rd Annual Fine Arts Show on December 12th at Patrick Henry Mall. Thanks to friends at the mall, artwork was displayed for two weeks in December to holiday shoppers. Club members, staff, and families attended the awards ceremony to celebrate their achievements. Of 60 art pieces, 20 were selected to advance to the regional contest by a special judging panel: Judy Fundak of Newport News Shipbuilding, Melissa Hazelwood of Ferguson Enterprises, and Lindsey Wagner of Canon Virginia.

This year-round program encourages artistic expression among Club members ages 6 to 18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media, and sculpture. Special effort is made by staff and artistic volunteers to encourage members' natural talent and teach new artistic skills.



# Notes of Hope

## Music Program provides unique opportunity

Young people need positive outlets for creative self-expression, especially those dealing with personal challenges. Music, in all its forms, is an ideal outlet, as it also develops critical thinking, self-confidence, and teamwork. Boys & Girls Clubs' music program is known as Music Makers and runs in different forms in several Clubs based on staff knowledge and volunteer skills.

The Buckroe Club, which opened in Hampton in April, houses a music studio with acoustic and electric guitars, keyboards, electronic drums, and disc jockey consoles. Unit Director Marc Lattimore is teaching Club members, along with volunteers currently working in the industry, how to use the different instruments and how to produce music that expresses their experiences and desire to better the world around them. Additionally, participants learn the business aspect of the music industry, like contract signing, promoting product, and presentations.

"My mom worked tirelessly raising two sons and working three jobs to provide the essentials, and DJ equipment was definitely out of the budget," said Unit Director Marc Lattimore. "I want to provide a resource to our members to express themselves musically without worrying about any economic barriers."

# Christmas Cheer

Canon adopts Club Members for seventh year



For the 7th consecutive year, Canon employees adopted Club members for the holidays. In 2018, they adopted 47 members from the York and Peninsula Clubs. Each member was invited to the Canon campus, treated to dinner and cookies, then showered with presents. Employees from each division, such as human resources, toner, and cameras, work together to shop for the kids. Club members are selected for participation by the Unit Director based on good behavior, strong academic performance, and need.

For the holidays this past year, 876 Club members were sponsored for Christmas because of the kindness of businesses and individuals from the community. We are so thankful to Canon, its employees, and our generous community for spreading holiday cheer to our Club members!





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## Our Mission

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

## Save the Date

March 21st - 31st Annual Steak 'N Burger Dinner  
May 10th - Boys & Girls Clubs Golf Tournament  
August 17th - 12th Annual Smart Smiles 5K  
October 12th - 23rd Annual Dinner Auction

## Stay in Touch

