

# EDUCATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESS



Thank you for reading our summer edition of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta newsletter! We hope you are enlightened and inspired by the stories of academic success in this edition.

Even though our kids are facing tough challenges, many are achieving big dreams to go to college and to become a force of positive change among their peers and communities. Because of you, they are making strides in academics, but research shows there is still more work to do to help local children reach their full potential.

Studies show that students who are not reading proficiently by the fourth grade are at a higher risk for dropping out of school, which means 66% of youth are at risk here in Georgia. BGCMA will continue to work hard to change that, but we need your continued commitment, too. As you know, great things can happen when we team up to help our kids. **Thanks for continuing to support BGCMA, and for all you do for our youth!**



**OPEN THE DOOR**  
to possibilities



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO ATLANTA**

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*Missy P. Dugan*

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



We are so grateful for supporters like Women's Giving Circle member Niki Noto Palmer. The TV sports reporter shares her passion for education and inspiration for building confident girls.

**Why did you join Women's Giving Circle?** It gave me an opportunity to meet and greet with other women striving towards a common goal of inspiring, encouraging, and leading young girls towards success.

**How did attending the University of Alabama contribute to your success?** College really helped develop my drive and hustle because I was a small fish in a large, crowded pond. I worked, volunteered, and took advantage of every opportunity in front of me. I became persistent and I learned I didn't like hearing 'no' or that I couldn't make it.

**Any tips for recent graduates, especially girls, who are about to enter the workforce?** Never sell yourself short in order to please others. Always keep your integrity and always remember that you are valuable!

This year, BGCMA is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the inclusion of girls as members.



Learn how you can support our girl-centered programs at [bgcma.org/womens\\_giving\\_circle](http://bgcma.org/womens_giving_circle).



Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta saves and changes the lives of children and teens, especially those who need us most, by providing a safe, positive and engaging environment, and programs that prepare and inspire them to achieve Great Futures.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

**Salsa, Salsa** – July 13, Magnolia Hall at Piedmont Park

**Boys & Girls Club Golf Classic** – August 15, TPC Sugarloaf

For more information, visit [bgcma.org/events\\_calendar](http://bgcma.org/events_calendar).



To make a difference in the lives of our youth, visit [bgcma.convio.net/newsletter](http://bgcma.convio.net/newsletter).



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO ATLANTA**

**GREAT FUTURES** SUMMER 2016



## Believe It, Achieve It! BGCMA TEENS ARE COLLEGE BOUND

It is shaping up to be a great year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta! This year, 65 graduating teens completed our College Bound program with 100% graduating on time. Your support made this happen!

Recent studies show that Georgia has the fifth-lowest graduation rate in the country, and programs like College Bound are part of BGCMA's strong commitment to turning that around.

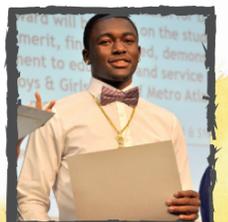
Because of your support, teens like Jasmin Moffet are headed to a great future! A longtime member of the Lawrenceville Club, Jasmin just received a Gates Millennium scholarship that will fully cover all undergraduate and graduate school costs. She plans to attend Kennesaw State University to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education where she can pay it forward and shape the lives of kids.

Jasmin is among 50+ kids from the College Bound class that are headed to 2- or 4- year colleges and universities. You are making dreams like this possible!

We are so proud of BGCMA's Class of 2016 for finishing strong. Great Futures...here we come!



To find out how you can get involved in shaping academic programs at our Clubs, visit [bgcma.org/getinvolved](http://bgcma.org/getinvolved).



[www.bgcma.org](http://www.bgcma.org)

## WHEN WE THINK OF HOPE...

When we think of hope, we picture kids like Stacy Finley. Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's 2010-2011 Youth of the Year graduated from Brandeis University last month. It seems like it was just yesterday when Stacy walked through our doors. He faced many hardships at an early age, including losing his father in a fatal shooting. Despite Stacy's rough beginning, he has remained diligent in his studies, and today he's entering a new chapter, full of possibilities. Stories like Stacy's remind us to make every moment count with the thousands of youth we serve. They also remind us that we could not do what we do without your continued support. Because of supporters like you, we are able to provide positive, engaging programs that prepare and inspire our youth to achieve Great Futures.



Help support our academic programs to give our youth hope for greater possibilities. Donate to [bgcma.convio.net/newsletter](http://bgcma.convio.net/newsletter).

## BGCMA WORD SCRAMBLE!

Boys & Girls Clubs make learning fun! The activity below is designed to challenge your memory and critical thinking skills. The word scramble relate to the themes and titles mentioned in this summer newsletter. Test your skills!

To view answers to this edition's scramble, visit [bgcma.org/scramble3](http://bgcma.org/scramble3).

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) WEPOR OF SRDOW       | 4) FFETMO SMINJA    |
| 2) LLEGCOE DOBUN        | 5) RFTIS VEWA       |
| 3) NWOESM NGIVIG CLIRCE | 6) KNII TONO LPAERM |



## "POWER OF WORDS"

Thanks to your support, the Marel Brown Creative Writing program equips our youth with the power of words. They learn the importance of creativity and self-expression and acquire fundamental skills in reading, writing, and public speaking.

Here's an inspiring poem by Sarah B., an 11-year-old member of the A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club.

**If we had to be labeled, I would be a leader.**

**I would show the world it is okay to be different.**

**We all must be different in some way.**

**If we were all the same, we would have no room for imagination.**

**Imagination is a very important factor to life in order to be different.**

**I believe there are no labels in life, only the special things that make you, you!**

**In order to live in the real world, you must be different and show your inner-self.**

Performed at Woodruff Arts Center this spring for our annual "Power of Words" event.



## TEEN POETS MAKE HISTORY WITH FIRST WAVE SCHOLARSHIP

Congrats to spoken words artists DeQuadray White, 18, of the Jesse Draper Club and Pherow Drain, 17, of the Douglas County Club! DeQuadray and Pherow have made history as the first BGCMA members to receive the First Wave Hip Hop and Urban Arts scholarship. The scholarship provides both teens with a four-year full tuition award to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, beginning this summer.

First Wave is the country's first and only scholarship program that provides financial support for students from spoken word and hip-hop communities. The prestigious honor comes as a result of their hard work in school and dedication to the arts.

BGCMA is excited to see where these teens' persistence will take them! As the late Henry Thoreau charged,

**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you imagined."**

