



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WHITTIER | PICO RIVERA**

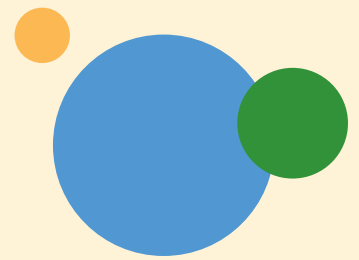


ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

2024-2025
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OPENING LETTER FROM OUR CEO and Board President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report and for believing in the mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera. Your support whether through donations, partnerships, volunteering, or simply sharing our story, makes it possible for us to continue serving the young people who need us most.

At the Boys & Girls Club, we make a promise to our community, to families, and to every child and teen who walks through our doors: the Club is a safe place to learn and grow, a fun place filled with meaningful learning opportunities and experiences, and a place that is accessible to all.

Our commitment is clear - no child will ever be turned away because of financial circumstances. Every day, we open our doors to ensure young people have access to caring mentors, enriching programs, and opportunities that help them reach their full potential. From academic support and career exploration to sports, arts, and wellness programs, our Club continues to be a place where dreams are nurtured and futures are built.

We are deeply grateful to our community supporters, whose generosity and partnership sustain our mission year after year. A special thank you to our district partners, **East Whittier City School District, Los Nietos School District, South Whittier School District, Little Lake School District, El Rancho Unified School District, Whittier Union High School District and Whittier City School District**, for trusting us with their students and for their continued partnership in helping young people thrive.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your steady guidance and vision. And to our dedicated staff, your passion and care ensure that our members are safe, engaged, and inspired every single day.

Together, we are building stronger communities and helping young people grow into productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Thank you for being part of this journey and for standing with us as we continue to shape great futures.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Oscar Hernandez
Chief Executive Officer



Carl Cheffers
President



GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**

ABOUT THE **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WHITTIER**

For more than 60 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier has provided safe, supportive spaces where young people can learn, grow, and reach their full potential. In FY 2024-2025, the Club served over 6,200 youth across 40 sites in Whittier, Pico Rivera, Norwalk, and Santa Fe Springs, offering programs that promote academic success, healthy lifestyles, and leadership development.

The Club operates before-school, after-school, and weekend programs that meet the needs of working families and provide consistent opportunities for learning and enrichment. Services are completely free at 39 school-based sites, ensuring that all students can participate. At the Main Clubhouse, families pay a nominal \$45 annual membership fee per child, with scholarships and fee waivers available so no youth is ever turned away.

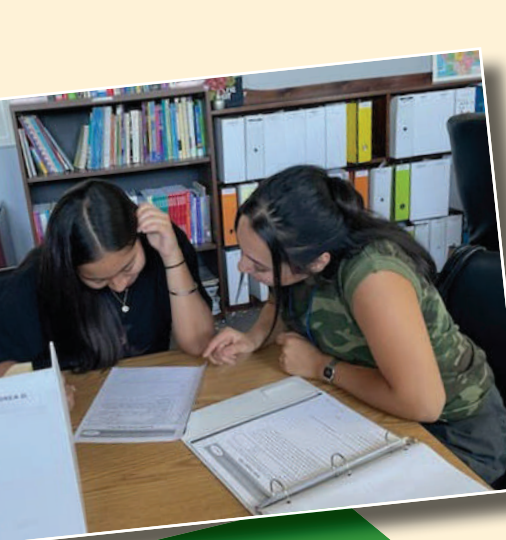
Each day, caring staff and volunteers deliver activities that strengthen academics, inspire creativity, and promote fitness and recreation—ensuring every young person, regardless of background or income, has access to the opportunities, support, and guidance needed to thrive and build bright futures.

MISSION:

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

VISION:

To provide a world-class club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship and a healthy lifestyle.





Maya Elias

On January 30, 2025, the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera hosted its annual Youth of the Year Celebration, honoring outstanding teens for their leadership, community service, and academic achievement. This inspiring event brought together nearly 400 community members, including business, civic, and education leaders, families, and friends of the Club.

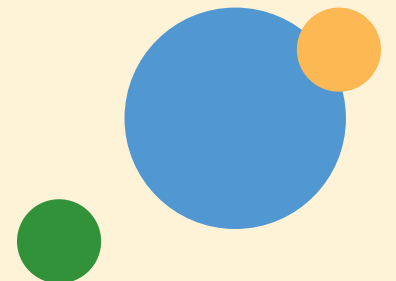
The evening's highlight was the recognition of Maya Elias as the 2025 Youth of the Year, marking her second consecutive year receiving this distinguished honor. Maya has been a dedicated member of the Club for several years, participating in programs such as our Leaders in Training (LIT) teen leaders development program, College & Career Readiness, Driver's Education, Teen Chef, and Keystone, where she served as Club Ambassador. She also represented the Club in Sacramento, meeting with state legislators to advocate for afterschool programs that empower youth and strengthen communities.

A graduate of El Rancho High School with High Honors and a 4.43 GPA, Maya excelled both academically and personally. She participated in Academic Decathlon, Golf, and Powderpuff, and was admired by peers and mentors alike for her leadership and compassion. This fall, she began her studies at Notre Dame University, where she plans to continue her advocacy and leadership journey.

We are deeply proud of Maya and all our Club youth who continue to inspire through their achievements and service. Their success embodies the Boys & Girls Club mission to help young people realize their full potential.

“The Boys & Girls Club empowers our youth to discover their purpose and pursue a path towards realizing their full potential.”

Oscar Valladares
*President of the Board of Trustees,
Río Hondo College*



From Safety to Purpose: What the Club Taught Me

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: Robert Colangeli

Growing up in Whittier, there were times when uncertainty felt like the only thing guaranteed. I remember walking home and hearing gunshots in the distance, wondering what my future would look like – if I even had one to look forward to. The streets could easily pull you in the wrong direction. And as a kid, you don't always see the difference until it's too late.

But I had the Boys & Girls Club. That place became my safe zone. It taught me values – how to treat people with respect, how to give back, how to do things the right way even when the world around you make the wrong way look easier. They taught me what work was. What earning money felt like. How responsibility could be empowering, not a burden.

I didn't realize it then, but everything I learned there became the foundation of who I am today – as a realtor, an investor, and a leader in my community.

Back then I had a choice: follow the path that leads nowhere... or try to make a difference in my family's life and in the community that raised me.

I chose the second option. And every day, I work to prove that choice right – by helping families build wealth, find homes, and create futures that are certain, safe, and full of opportunity.

From Whittier... to real estate entrepreneur.
From surviving my environment... to changing my environment.

The Boys & Girls Club didn't just give me a place to go. They helped me figure out who I could become.





51ST GALA & LEE OWENS AWARD

Celebrating Generosity, Leadership, and Shared Purpose

The Boys & Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera celebrated its 51st Annual Gala and Auction, "Boots & Bright Futures," on September 20, 2025 at the Friendly Hills Country Club. More than 200 distinguished guests gathered for an evening of country-western charm, community spirit, and shared purpose. The event featured live music, dinner, and an exciting live auction in support of after-school and summer programs that empower local youth to learn, grow, and thrive.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2025 Lee Owens Award to Shannon Hammer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce. Named in honor of longtime Club supporter Lee Owens, the award recognizes individuals who exemplify his enduring spirit of service, generosity, and commitment to the young people of our community.

Shannon's lifelong dedication to Whittier has touched every corner of the city—from her 15 years on the Club's Board of Directors, including three as President, to her leadership in local business, philanthropy, and volunteerism. Her generosity, creativity, and compassion embody the very essence of the Lee Owens legacy.



BUILDING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

for Lifelong **SUCCESS**

The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera places Social Emotional Learning (SEL) at the core of its mission, empowering more than six thousand youth to build emotional intelligence, confidence, and resilience. SEL activities across all sites teach essential life skills such as communication, empathy, and self-control while reinforcing that positive thoughts lead to positive actions and feelings. These lessons create a foundation for academic success, mental well-being, and lifelong fulfillment.

Programs like **SMART Girls**, **Passport to Manhood**, and **Blooming Minds** bring SEL to life through engaging workshops and hands-on projects in literacy, science, and gardening. Youth learn to practice teamwork, gratitude, and kindness in settings that encourage self-expression and personal growth.

A standout example of this commitment is **Dream It, Be It**, a partnership with Soroptimist International that helps girls overcome barriers like poverty, instability, or early motherhood. Through mentorship and group workshops, participants gain the tools to navigate challenges, set goals, and believe in their potential. They lead with courage, clarity, and confidence to pursue education and leadership opportunities within their communities.

Together, these programs form a continuum of support that nurtures the whole child—mind, heart, and spirit. By combining evidence-based SEL instruction with mentorship and experiential learning, the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera helps every member develop the emotional resilience and leadership skills needed to thrive and contribute positively to the world.



SPORTS AND CHEER:

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles and Confidence

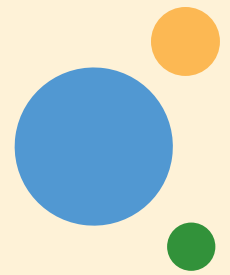


At the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera, sports are more than recreation. They are essential tools for building healthier, stronger, and more confident youth. In Los Angeles County, nearly forty percent of children ages ten to seventeen are overweight or obese, and on average they engage in only twenty minutes of physical activity per day—far below the sixty minutes recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Our programs are changing that reality.

Every one of our 6,000+ members participate in at least sixty minutes of daily sports, fitness, and exercise activities that promote movement, teamwork, and overall wellness.

This past year, we proudly introduced two new initiatives that have quickly become member favorites: Cheer and Pickleball. The Cheer program, offered at all sites, empowers youth to express creativity, develop coordination, and strengthen friendships through team routines and spirited performances. Members perform at Club basketball games and district competitions, showcasing pride, discipline, and confidence. Meanwhile, our Pickleball program at our Main Clubhouse and Lake Center Middle School engages members in an inclusive, fast paced sport that builds agility, strategy, and focus. Through practices and friendly matches, youth learn perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Together, these programs represent our commitment to helping every child thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally through active, healthy lifestyles.



INNOVATING FUTURES:

Inspiring Youth Through STEM Learning

Across Whittier and surrounding Southeast Los Angeles County communities, only 38% of students meet grade level standards in math and just 29% in science, leaving many students unprepared for the growing number of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera is working to change that by ensuring that all 6,000+ members participate in engaging, hands-on STEM learning activities each week.

Our **Drones Program** introduces elementary students to the fundamentals of flight, coding, and problem solving through mission-based challenges that mirror real world applications such as search and rescue and environmental mapping. The experience builds curiosity, teamwork, and confidence while inspiring youth to see themselves in technology driven careers.

Through our **Rocket Program**, students explore aerodynamics and propulsion by designing and launching their own model rockets. What begins as a classroom project becomes a powerful lesson in physics, creativity, and collaboration.

The **Go Baby Go** program, created in partnership with XBots Robotics and PPG Industries, offers teen members the opportunity to combine engineering with compassion. Volunteers retrofit motorized go karts for toddlers with physical disabilities, gaining valuable technical and problem solving skills while helping children achieve greater mobility and independence.

Our **Virtual Reality Club** also transports youth into immersive environments where science, literacy, and creativity come alive. Whether virtually walking on Mars or exploring earth's various terrains, students experience learning in new and inspiring ways.

From robotics and rocketry to virtual reality and engineering design, the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera continues to inspire curiosity, innovation, and discovery. Each week, our STEM programs help youth build confidence, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for the future one experiment, one idea, and one success at a time.



“ Since 2016, the partnership between the El Rancho Unified School District and the Boys & Girls Club of Pico Rivera has been a vital extension of our district’s commitment to student success and well-being. Through this collaboration, students have demonstrated meaningful academic and personal growth, gaining confidence and a sense of belonging. We deeply value this partnership and the shared dedication to empowering youth in our community. ”

Dora Soto-Delgado
Interim Superintendent,
El Rancho Unified School District

LEADERS IN TRAINING TEEN PROGRAMS: Transforming Potential into Real-World Success

Did you know...

1 in 3 young people grows up without a mentor, yet those with mentors are 55% more likely to enroll in college and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions in their careers (MENTOR National).

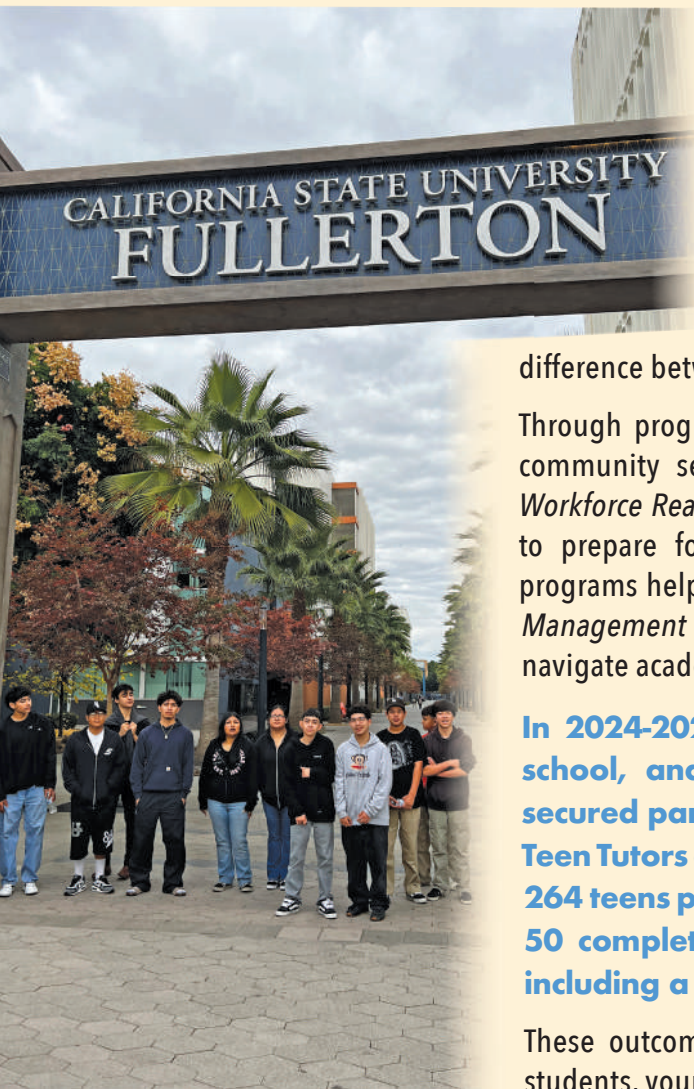
The stark cost of this gap is profound. Without positive role models, youth are more vulnerable to negative peer influence, disengagement from school, and lack of direction about their future.

At the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera, every teen has access to caring mentors who believe in them, advocate for them, and help them envision success. For many, this is the difference between dropping out or stepping up.

Through programs like *Pathways* for college and career readiness, *Keystone* for community service and leadership, *Money Matters* for financial literacy, and *Workforce Readiness* for employment skills, teens receive hands on opportunities to prepare for life after high school. The *Driver's Education* and *Teen Chef* programs help build independence and healthy habits, while individualized *Case Management* Support ensures each member receives personalized guidance to navigate academic, emotional, and personal challenges.

In 2024-2025, 100% of seniors (139 teens) graduated from high school, and 125 applied to postsecondary education. 42 teens secured part time employment, while 60 LIT students were hired as Teen Tutors and Junior Staff, gaining valuable workforce experience. 264 teens participated in college and career readiness activities, and 50 completed a comprehensive safe driving education program, including a series of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road training.

These outcomes are not just numbers; they represent first-generation college students, young wage earners helping their families, and teens reclaiming agency over their futures.



WHITTIER AREA LITERACY COUNCIL:

Unlocking the Power of Reading

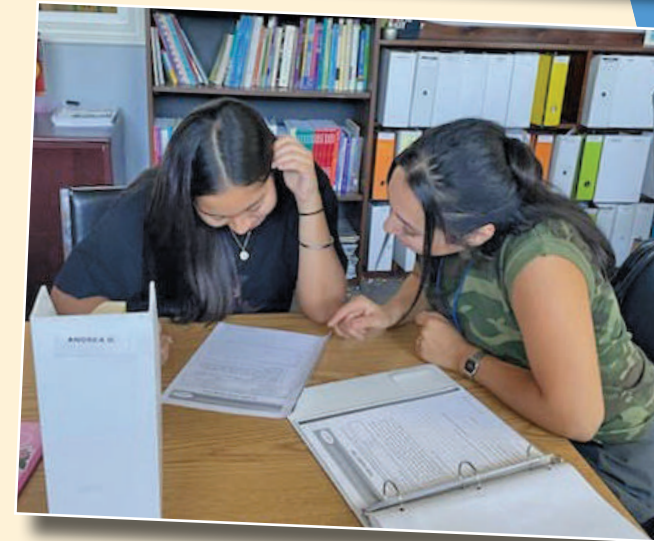
For more than 60 years, the Whittier Area Literacy Council (WALC) has helped struggling readers find their voice and confidence through the power of literacy. Now a core program of the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera, WALC provides free, individualized tutoring to children and adults who are two or more years behind grade level in reading or writing.

Each year, the program serves approximately 70 students who receive one-on-one tutoring for two hours per week over 12 months. Every participant is carefully matched with a trained volunteer tutor who provides personalized instruction in spelling, vocabulary, phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension.

The need for these services remains urgent. Based on the latest standardized test scores, only 48 percent of K-12 students in the Whittier area meet state standards in English Language Arts, and approximately 66 percent come from low-income families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch programs. Without cost-free programs like WALC, many students would be unable to access the high-quality literacy support they need to succeed.

The results speak for themselves. Of the 70 students served last year, 55 students (79%) demonstrated measurable improvement in core literacy skills - such as spelling, vocabulary, phonics, and reading comprehension - based on pre- and post-assessments.

Through WALC, the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera continues to ensure that every learner has the opportunity to read with confidence, achieve academically, and build a foundation for lifelong success.



“Through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), East Whittier City School District proudly partners with the Boys & Girls Club to provide students with enriching experiences that extend learning beyond the school day. This collaboration offers safe, engaging environments where students can explore academics, arts, athletics, and leadership while developing confidence and belonging. Together, we’re fulfilling EWCS’s vision of Opening Doors to Every Child’s Future—ensuring each has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.”

Sean Jamarillo

Expanded Learning Opportunity Coordinator
East Whittier City School District

Celebrating Community, Gratitude, and Giving at the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier



The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera proudly hosted two of its most cherished annual events, the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Operation Hotcakes Toy Giveaway. Each celebration brought together families, donors, staff, and volunteers to honor the spirit of giving, gratitude, and community.

At the **Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**, nearly 500 children, teens, and Whittier area residents were welcomed to enjoy a warm meal complete with turkey, sides, and dessert. Guests enjoyed performances by Club members in choir, cheer, and dance, which reflected the skills, teamwork, and confidence our youth develop through Club programs. The evening offered a moment of connection and joy, ensuring that every family had a place to feel valued and supported during the holidays.

Soon after, the ninth **Annual Operation Hotcakes Toy Giveaway** brought joy to more than 600 children and families. Youth received gifts, enjoyed a pancake breakfast, and participated in games, music, and holiday activities that created lasting memories. The event was made possible by the generosity of donors, community partners, and volunteers whose dedication continues to make a meaningful difference.

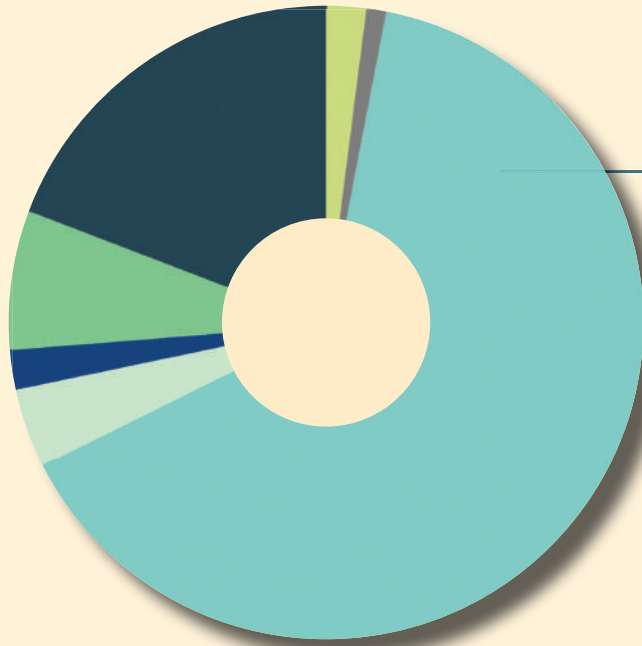
Together, these events reflect the mission of the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier and Pico Rivera to uplift youth, strengthen families, and foster a stronger and more connected community.



2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP DATA

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED: 6,200

Average Daily Attendance
School 2,884 • Summer 1,450

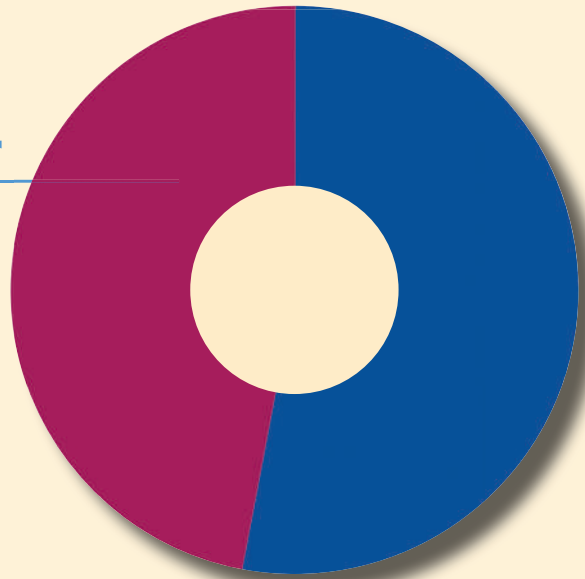


Membership by Ethnicity

- Asian 2%
- Black or African American 1%
- Hispanic or Latino 64%
- White 4%
- Other 2%
- Two or More 7%
- Unknown 19%

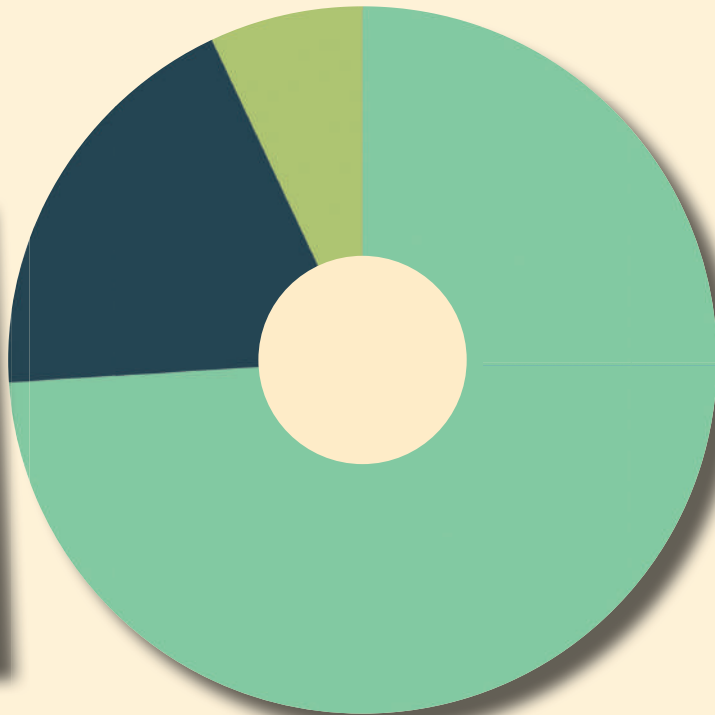
Membership by Gender

- Male 53%
- Female 47%



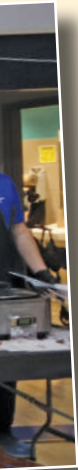
Membership by Age Group

- Elementary 74%
- Middle School 19%
- High School 7%



Staff

Full Time 63 • Part Time 399
Volunteers 24 • Board Members 26



OUTCOME ACHIEVEMENTS

General Programs Outcomes

Outcome Area	Key Achievement	Comparison/Context
Academic Success	95% of Club students are on track to graduate from high school.	Compares to the L.A. County average of 82%.
Academic Achievement	79% of students reported receiving school grades of mostly A's and B's.	Directly supports academic achievement goals.
Physical Health	87% of youth exercised five or more times a week.	Far exceeds the 38.7% rate for the general California youth population.
Healthy Habits	71% of students consumed vegetables on a daily basis.	Compares favorably to the national youth population rate of 49.1%.
Social Support	91% of students feel they have someone to talk to when something goes wrong. Additionally, 86% of participants said they feel supported by and connected to Club staff.	Reflects strong staff-to-member relationships.
Club Belonging	82% of students feel a sense of belonging at the Club.	Supports character development and positive peer relationships.

Team Programs Outcomes

Area	Achievement & Detail
Academic & Graduation	100% of seniors (139 teens) graduated high school. 125 teens applied to post-secondary education.
Workforce Readiness	42 teen secured part-time employment opportunities. 60 LIT students were hired as Teen Tutors/Junior Staff, gaining paid work experience and training.
Career Development	264 high school students participated in the LIT program. Programming included college readiness, career pathways workshops, and job shadowing.
Life Skills	50 teens participated in a comprehensive safe driving education program, including classroom instruction and virtual reality simulations.
Impact Narrative	These outcomes represent first-generation college students, young wage-earners helping their families, and teens reclaiming agency over their futures.

“As proud supporters of the Boys & Girls Club, we’ve seen firsthand the positive impact the organization has on local youth and families. It’s so much more than an after-school program—it’s a true community where young people are supported, inspired, and given a safe space to grow, build connections, and thrive. The Club’s dedication to creating brighter futures aligns seamlessly with our mission at Credit Union of Southern California (CU SoCal), and we are proud to partner together.”

Natalie Reggio
Boys and Girls Club Board Member and
Representative of Credit Union of Southern California (CU SoCal)

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier | Pico Rivera is grateful for the support of our donors during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The following recognition includes charitable gifts from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

\$100,000+

The Estate of Lee Owens
BCM Foundation
Pacific Youth Foundation
LA County Department of
Public Social Services
LA County Development Authority
The Rose Hills Foundations

\$50,000+

Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Heisman Trophy Youth
Development Fund
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
Taco Bell Foundation
The Green Foundation

\$25,000+

4th District, L.A. County -
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Anonymous
BMO
Gene & Elaine Allen Foundation

\$10,000+

Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation
California Alliance of Boys &
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JCPenney
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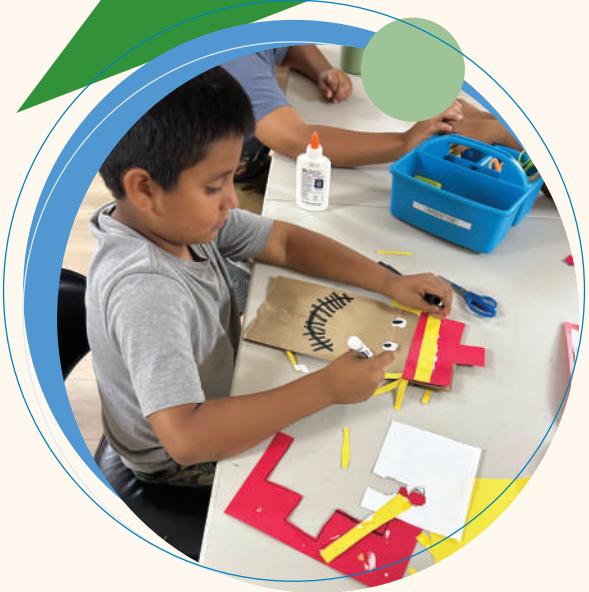
\$5,000+

All Star Cable Products Inc.
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\$2,500+

California Grill & Bar
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First Pacific Bank
Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation
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Water Replenishment District
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Whittier Union High School District



\$1,000+

Banc of California Charitable Foundation
 Bob's Discount Furniture
 Boeing Employees Community Fund
 BrightView Landscape Development
 California Golf Events
 Catering by Herach and Ara
 Chick-Fil-A, Santa Fe Springs
 Dr. Lisa Thomson
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 El Rancho Unified School District
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\$500+

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

VISION

To provide a world-class club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship and a healthy lifestyle.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

- Academic Success
- Good Character and Citizenship
- Healthy Lifestyles