September 2024

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#### **GRENVILLE BAKER** BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



We are thrilled to announce the opening of our Wellness Center, a dedicated space designed to support the mental, social, emotional, and behavioral health of our K-12 members. Our mission is to provide a holistic approach to child development, ensuring that every child is equipped with the tools they need to thrive.

On Thursday, August 15, we celebrated the launch of this vital resource with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. We were honored to be joined by a representative from Kohl's, one of the generous funders of the Wellness Center, whose support has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW WELLNESS CENTER

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The Wellness Center is more than just a physical space; it's a sanctuary where we can connect deeply with the children and teens in our care. This center will enable us to offer personalized counseling sessions tailored to each child's unique needs, helping them grow emotionally, build resilience, and develop a strong sense of self.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Barbara King, our dedicated board member and healthcare professional, for her invaluable support. We also want to recognize Shawnte Carter, a former Club employee and social worker, who introduced us to Kimberly Mestizo, the visionary social worker behind this initiative.



Learn more and stay in touch by visiting www.gbbgc.org or follow us on social @grenvillebaker



### **CLUB HOSTS SUCCESSFUL GREECE PROJECT ART SHOW**

We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of our Greece Project with a fantastic Art Show! Our teens, alongside Kayra Martinez, Director of Love Without Borders, helped raise an impressive \$2,013.06. These funds will go directly to supporting refugee families in Greece, furthering our mission of global kindness and outreach. Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative. Additionally, we'd like to give a huge shoutout to Stephanie Urio and Stephanie Canales, whose dedication, time, and energy were instrumental in making this event a success! Your hard work truly made a difference.



## ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES LAVINE SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH WITH GRANT

We were honored to welcome Assemblyman Charles Lavine to Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club, where he generously presented us with a \$25,000 check. This vital legislative grant will directly support our K-5 Afterschool Elementary Enrichment Program, which serves over 250 local children each school year. Assemblyman Lavine's commitment to our community ensures that our young members continue to thrive academically and socially in a nurturing and enriching environment.





#### **GRENVILLE BAKER** BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



## SUMMER CAMP 2024: WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD!

This year's summer camp theme, "Welcome to Hollywood," truly delivered an award-winning experience for all our campers! We rolled out the red carpet for a sixweek adventure packed with fun, creativity, and excitement. Our campers were divided into three groups— Kiddie Camp, Junior Camp, and Senior Camp—based on the grade they are entering, which helped create a smoother camp experience. Each group enjoyed their own special activities and trips, tailored to their age and interests.

Every summer brings a mix of new and familiar faces, and this year was no exception. The energy, enthusiasm, and bonds formed throughout the summer made it unforgettable for all. We're already looking forward to seeing the campers return next year, ready for even more fun!

#### TRAVEL CAMP: ADVENTURES ACROSS LONG ISLAND

Our Travel Camp took summer adventures to the next level, with members hopping on the Club bus to explore all that Long Island has to offer. From gokarting to roller coasters, mini-golf to rock climbing, the campers faced new challenges and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, all while building stronger friendships.

One of the highlights of their summer was the trip to an escape room, where teamwork was the key to success. For many, it was their first time working through the puzzles needed to escape in under an hour. Together, they solved the clues and managed to break free with over five minutes to spare—a huge accomplishment!

The campers agreed: this was a summer they will never forget. From the thrill of the activities to the memories made, our Travel Camp created bonds that will last a lifetime.



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We are excited to announce that our Club received a \$10,000 pass-through grant from Apple's Community Education Initiative through Boys & Girls Clubs of America to support the implementation of the Innovate Program. As part of this grant, two staff members attended a four-day training in Austin, Texas. Our Senior Director of Teen Programs, Stephanie Canales, and newly promoted Director of Tween Programs, Giancarlo Servedio, had the opportunity to participate in this hands-on professional development experience.

This training not only equipped them with valuable skills to effectively use Apple products in the Innovate

## INNOVATION WITH APPLE

Program, but it also allowed them to strengthen their working relationship. As a new team, their bond and collaboration are essential in ensuring the success of our programs for our teens, who are among our most vulnerable members.



This marks the second grant we've received from Apple, and we look forward to seeing the Innovate Program thrive and make a lasting impact!



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