GRENVILLE BAKER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

March 2025

PILOT BE CONNECTED

EACH YEAR, GBBGC RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING CLUB MEMBERS WHO EXEMPLIFY LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND DEDICATION. MEET THIS YEAR'S FINALISTS!

MEET THE 2025 YOUTH OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES!

Abraham Diaz Gomez
Abraham, a high school senior, discovered GBBGC in 5th grade and found a place to express himself freely. He thrived in Torch Club before becoming Keystone president, leading a service trip to Greece. A passionate storyteller, he aspires to be a comic book artist and plans to stay involved with the Club.

Kevin Arreguin
Kevin, a senior, was captivated by GBBGC as a child, bonding with mentors who encouraged his growth. Since joining Keystone in his sophomore year, he has embraced community service. He plans to study sports management and business at Utica or Siena this fall.

Teresa Martinez
Teresa, a junior, joined the Club three years ago and quickly found her place. Keystone gave her opportunities to organize events like Hispanic Heritage and Thanksgiving dinner. She's grateful for the experiences, including attending Broadway shows, and plans to pursue veterinary medicine.

Valentina Canales
Valentina has called the Club a second home since elementary school. From overcoming stage fright in talent shows to leading Torch Club for three years, she has grown into a confident leader. Now Keystone president, she shines in the arts and recently starred in Chicago. Valentina plans to pursue a career in marketing.

Yulie Diaz Gomez
Yulie, a junior, has been a member since 4th grade, embracing personal growth and new experiences. Active in Torch Club, SMART Girls, and Keystone, she helped raise funds for a service trip to Greece. She hopes to become a flight attendant and is exploring college options.

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

Please join us

for the Announcement of the
Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club
2025 Youth of the Year

March 19, 2025
6:00 p.m.
135 Forest Avenue • Locust Valley, NY 11560

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3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT

It was March Madness at Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club during its popular 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The air buzzed with the sound of sneakers squeaking against the gym floors, basketballs bouncing, and families shouting with excitement. It wasn't just about playing hoops – it was about supporting a cause that means so much to the community.

The 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament has become an annual tradition, and this year, the stakes were higher than ever. The goal? To raise money for a place that offers a safe space for kids after school where they can do their homework, play, and establish lifelong friendships.

Teams from Locust Valley, Bayville, Glen Cove, and Oyster Bay were assigned game times with players ranging in age from 10 to 17. The tournament was open to both boys and girls, making it an inclusive event where talent and teamwork beamed through.

The tournament co-chairs, led by Tiffany Palagonia, Michelle Ort, Diana Davis and Katherine Schidlovsky, worked tirelessly behind the scenes, making sure everything ran smoothly, from securing sponsors, soliciting raffle items, confirming players, to setting up the concession stand with pizzas, candy, chips, and hydrating beverages.

The tournament was made possible with the generosity of the following: Apollo Jets, Talon Air, The Doshi Family, Michèle Bahnik Mercier and Kevin Mercier, Jennifer & Eli Gross, The Sanveren Family, Papiro Landscaping, The Brook Family, The Schidlovsky Family, The Davis Family, The Ostad Family, The Ort Family, The Maragos Family, The Clarke Family, The Marsh Family, Charles Bennett, Bari & Troy David, The Dubofsky Family, The Kobel Family, Kelly Walles, The Yarian Family, Anonymous, The Tsiolas Family, Andrea Ferdinand, Nathan's Famous, and Catherine Kasper. A silent auction with sports memorabilia was compliments of 528 Collectibles and pizza was provided by Locust Valley Pizza.

"Today wasn't just about basketball, it's about making sure every kid here has the opportunity to thrive—on and off the court," said Executive Director Melissa Rhodes.

Congrats to all the divisional winners! You made us proud!

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GBBGC COLLEGE TOUR

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club recently visited four SUNY schools with eighteen of its teens during the February winter break. As part of its College Prep program, the College Tour is designed to provide high school students with an invaluable opportunity to explore various colleges and universities across the region.

The teens learned firsthand about different campuses, programs, and student life, which will help them to make informed decisions about their future education. Highlights of the college tour included meetings with college admissions officers to learn about the application process and scholarship opportunities. They also met with Access and Opportunity Representatives to discuss other financial and academic support available. GBBGC teens had the opportunity to interact with current students and meet up with Club alums attending both Cortland and Binghamton.

"The Teen College Tour provides an immersive experience that gives students a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available to them. It is a stepping-stone for their academic journey," said Stephanie Urio, Director of Programs and Professional Development.

"I went on the college tour and had a great experience visiting several campuses. Each school had its own unique atmosphere, the campuses were beautiful, the students and staff were welcoming, and I got a great sense of the opportunities each school offers," said Kasey Z.

"Going on the college tour was a good opportunity for me as a sophomore. All the staff and students were positive. Each of the colleges had their own uniqueness. My favorite out of the four we toured was Binghamton. The campus was outstanding, and they have a lot to offer," said Alyssa D.

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club continues to empower today's youth by offering its comprehensive and high-quality College Prep Program, which includes academic support; college visits; assistance with applications for admissions, financial aid, and scholarships; workforce development opportunities; leadership and community service opportunities; and ongoing moral and social support. The Club strives to ensure all children have access to college, along with the much-needed guidance and support to grow into confident young adults with prosperous futures ahead of them.

The College Prep program is generously supported by the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Jones Fund, New York Community Trust, Coudert Foundation, Charles Schwab Foundation, and Big Guy Foundation. Thanks to their investment, there is no fee for the teens to participate in the College Tour.

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

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ VISITS THE CLUB

Nassau County Legislator Samantha Goetz visited the Club for a basketball pregame ceremony on Saturday, February 15th. The Legislator is a proud supporter of our basketball program, and we were delighted to thank her for believing in our mission. Her two daughters participate in our Instructional Basketball program, and she even hopes to serve as a coach in the future. In addition, thanks to her advocacy, we received a $100,000 ARPA Grant for COVID relief. Thank you, Legislator Goetz!

FUN FRIDAY

On Friday, February 21 the Club had another Fun Friday with Kerboomkidz, which is a movement and mental health program that brings high energy to the kids they work with. They came to the Club and did a fitness challenge with all our K-5 members.

The members were split into two groups, so they had the most space to move around. The staff cleared the cafeteria so everyone could join in. The kids learned cool dancing moves while receiving positive affirmations. Everyone was participating. The youth felt confident and danced with their friends and showed the best of themselves.