

Answering the question: Why the VNBGC?

By Wanda Barkhurst
Board member, VNBGC

Why the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs?

- *Raised by my grandparents because my parents' home was filled with drugs - I was very angry....*
- *Angry at my mother, no father around, all my brothers in prison....*
- *Emancipated from my parents and taking care of my younger siblings at 16....*
- *Yelling, screaming, fighting, drugs, alcohol, and no quiet place to study....*
- *My parents love me but have to work all the time - lots of gang pressure around school, bike trails and parks - I am 12....*
- *My father set my mobile home on fire with my mother, siblings and me in it. I was angry and a "bad" kid....*

These are not lines from a book, movie or TV reality show. These are statements from our youth, the kids from our neighborhoods, our schools, our churches, our community - yes, the youth of Vacaville.

All across the U.S. people have heard of The Boys & Girls Clubs thanks to celebrities like Denzel Washington, Jennifer Lopez, Sugar Ray Leonard and Ashanti. Many may even recognize the familiar "hands" logo, but few know what The Boys & Girls Clubs really do and what they have to offer.

In Vacaville, awareness is spreading and community support is getting stronger as more citizens learn about the two clubs, their members, their programs, the staff and the board. Education, safety and a positive environment are the main focus of The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs. The Clubs offer amazing programs in leadership, character, college



Congressman George Miller presents the Youth of the Year award to Mur-Ray Colbert at the Club's annual barbecue at Andrews Park. To the right, long-time club member Devin Murphy shows off his tie while on a trip to Washington, D.C.

preparation and positive community involvement.

Goals 4 Graduation, Torch Club, National Night Out, Smart Moves, Triple Play and Street Smarts are just a few of the programs offered. As far as the staff at The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs, it is more than a job; they have a strong commitment to the kids. They are there when the kids need them. That need has no boundaries and many staff members have answered that call late into the evening or on their time off just to be there for the kids - to listen - to give advice - to mentor.

The Vacaville community has two Boys & Girls Club sites serving over 600 youth. One called Trower located on Holly Lane and one known as Mariposa located on Alamo. As most of you may know, the Mariposa site is temporarily closed due to a very recent fire. A fire is a traumatic situation for any business or family but can you imagine how traumatic for
(See **QUESTION**, Back Page)

OUR MISSION

To inspire and enable the youth of our community, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

OUR VISION

The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club is recognized as the PREMIER youth development organization in our community.

THE VNBGC



BE GREAT



Save the Date!

The Vacaville Neighborhood
Boys & Girls Club

6th *Annual Ball*

Fundraiser - Black Tie Optional

November 6, 2010

5 PM-10 PM

Yin Ranch - Vacaville

To be a Sponsor or to reserve your tickets

(707) 333-3560

Additional information and details on our website

www.VNBGC.com

Mariposa Center • 1625 Alamo Drive • Vacaville, CA 95687 • Tel 707-451-0755 • Fax 707-451-0757 • TTY 707-451-0450
Trower Center and Teen Center • 100 Holly Lane • Vacaville, CA 95688 • Tel 707-452-0480 • Fax 707-452-0482

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it just takes | one.

One day in the life of a child can make a huge impact on her future.

One caring adult can create an unbreakable bond with a vulnerable child that will last throughout his lifetime.

One Boys & Girls Club can offer hope to an entire neighborhood.

One gift from you can open the door to a brighter tomorrow for more of our children.

"Friendship, companionship and a sense of belonging; young people can find all these things in a Boys & Girls Club. I can't imagine what my life would have been like without one."

*Denzel Washington,
National Spokesperson, Boys & Girls Clubs of America.*

...are you the | one?

Yes, I would like to support The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club's

...it just takes one campaign.

Please accept my contribution of:

- \$150 to support one child for 3 months.
- \$300 to support one child for 6 months.
- \$600 to support one child for 12 months.
- Other \$ _____



Please complete the following so that we can mail your tax receipt:.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our IRS tax identification number is 13-4223488

1625 Alamo Drive • Vacaville, CA 95687 • Tel 707-451-0755 • Fax 707-451-0757

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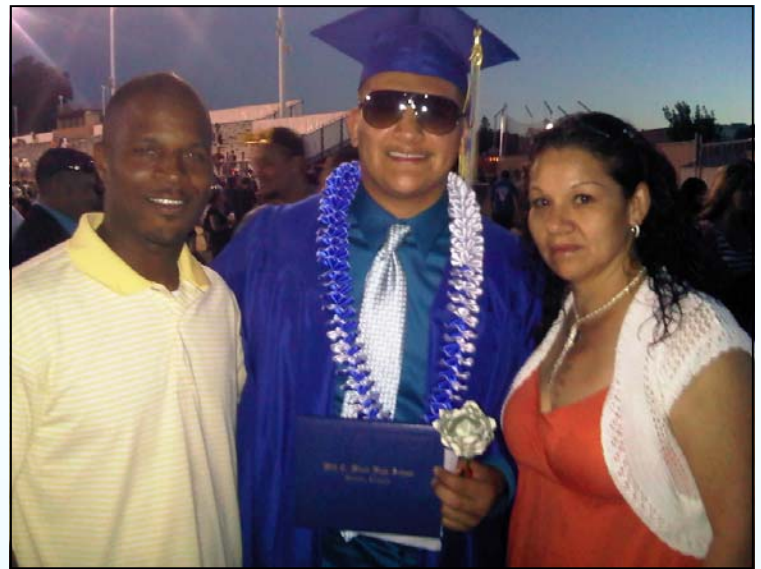
Question, from the front page

for a “family” of over 300 and a business that is non-profit?

Family is how the club members feel toward the staff members at The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs with mutual feelings from the staff. Even in the face of dire circumstances which included losing a whole lab of computers, a site of educational materials and a month’s worth of snack and food items, The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs have consolidated and continue to change the future of its members.

Changing futures? Yes, The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs change futures. This truth is easily found when you meet the members of the Club or talk with its Executive Director, Montoya Graham. Graham has a belief that he relates to all of his members “It does not matter where you have been or where you are now - it matters only where you are going.”

- *After being a member of The VNBGC, I went to work there - I am the youngest Unit Director ever hired by The Boys & Girls Clubs and I am a college student. The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club saved my life....*
- *I am now Student Body President at Buckingham Charter Magnet High, and an intern for Senator Lois Wolk. Montoya and The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club changed my life....*
- *I carry a 3.5 GPA, work at The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, just received the Youth of the Year award presented by Congressman Miller. The club is an inspiration to me & I want to give that back to the kids....*
- *I go to the club every day and stay involved - it is my second home - I have a 4.0 GPA....*
- *I am really scared by the gangs so I go to The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club. I do not want to be a gang member....*



Montoya Graham, Executive Director of the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, poses with Jose Medina and his mother following graduation ceremonies at Will C. Wood High School.

‘It does not matter where you have been or where you are now - it matters only where you are going.’

Montoya Graham
Executive Director, VNBGC

- *My mother, Montoya & The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club never gave up on me. I graduated from high school and received a scholarship for college....*

Montoya’s inspiring words “It does not matter where you have been or where you are now. It matters only where you are going” hold such truth.

Why The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs? The Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs change the futures of our youth and that changes generations.

To make a donation to the club or sponsor a club member visit www.VNBGC.com or call 707-451-0755

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