Building Great Futures with Unique Opportunities

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Photographs courtesy of Jill Sears

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE NORTHERN NECK

Youth entering the state-of-the-art Boys & Girls Club in Kilmarnock are given unique opportunities to capitalize or expand their interests. BGCNN kids can learn how to use 3-D printers, fly drones, build bridges, and launch rockets, or work on their athletic skills with an indoor climbing wall and two indoor batting cages. Along with team sports, youth can partake in the ART+ and photography clubs, and participate in programming that promotes leadership, service, money-management skills, health/wellness, career goal-setting, healthy meal preparation, and more. The Boys & Girls Club strives to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

The Kilmarnock location serves approximately 100 youth a day. Marketing/Development Director Jill Sears commented, "we have been in the forefront of local youth development, serving youth from all economic, social and/or family circumstances. We

are dedicated to ensuring that our community's youth have greater access to opportunities that can help shape great futures."

During the summer, BGCNN partners with the YMCA to provide swim lessons and pool fun and partners with Youth Technology Network for weekly STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs. During the school year, Power Hour is time set aside to focus on and get help with homework. After that, everyone branches off to their fields of interest, including soccer, basketball, and a multitude of club offerings. The Torch Club for Youth and the Keystone Club for teens are both leadership and service clubs. The Teen Chef and Young Chef Clubs offer nutrition education through practice in healthy cooking. Teen Talk encourages member discussion of contemporary issues, both public and personal, while Money Matters offers basic money management skills to promote financial responsibility. BGCNN partners with RAL Art Center for the ART+ Club, in which local artists introduce club members to a wide variety of media including watercolors, oil, pastels, fabric art, and sculpture. Club members learn about master artists and their work, and then create their own work in the artist's style. There is also a photography club thanks to the addition of 12 digital cameras donated by Canon Virginia Inc. Youth and teens can also meet with mentors, and when possible, BGCNN partners with other organizations in the community to bring special programs and activities to Club kids.

You can volunteer at BGCNN, sharing your expertise and passions with the Club youth, to help guide their futures. Become a part of those great futures. Learn more at **www.bgcnn.org.**