

THE BGC OF JOLIET

WINTER EDITION 2026



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

PANDA CARES

OPENING EVENT



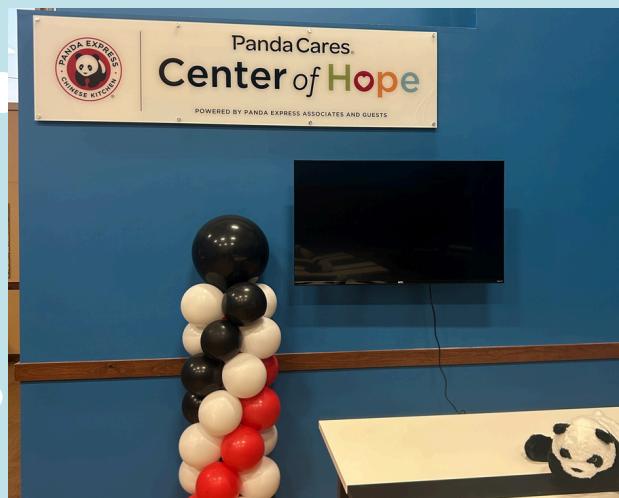
We extend our heartfelt thanks to Panda Express, Panda Cares Foundation, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America for awarding the Boys & Girls Club of Joliet a \$45,000 grant to support our members' academic growth. The recent ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the official unveiling of our newly renovated third-floor learning space.

Thanks to this generous investment, the Club's third floor has been transformed into a vibrant, engaging learning environment featuring new flooring, a dedicated reading area with flexible seating, laptops for IXL learning, and a podcast setup. This space provides members with opportunities to collaborate, explore creative projects, and participate in Coding and STEAM activities—empowering them with the tools, confidence, and skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

PANDA CARES OPENING EVENT



We are incredibly grateful to Panda Express for their generous support and continued partnership. A special thank you to Xochitl Herrera, Panda Express Area Coach of Operations, Mara, and Gabe for accepting partnership plaques on behalf of their respective Panda Express restaurants. We also extend our appreciation to the Panda Express associates who served and engaged with our Club members throughout the event.

Our youth had an amazing time—enjoying delicious food, connecting with Panda Express team members, and spending time with the beloved Panda Express mascot, Pei Pei! We are truly thankful for Panda Express's ongoing investment in our youth and their future.

A heartfelt thank you to Boys & Girls Club of Joliet High School Club member and Joliet Central High School senior, Marlin Johnson, for sharing inspiring remarks—you did an outstanding job! Special recognition to Liz Baines for the beautiful balloon décor; your creativity added a special touch to the celebration.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a wonderful success!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

PANDA CARES CENTER OF HOPE



HOLIDAY PARTY

The Boys & Girls Club of Joliet hosted a wonderful annual Holiday Party for our club members and their families! The joy, laughter, and holiday spirit filled the room and made the day unforgettable!

We'd like to give special recognition to BGC Joliet Board Members, Harrah's Joliet Casino and Hotel, Joliet Slammers, Chase Shorewood, Commerce Bank, Ryan Behrens, Target Joliet Team Members, HeartLife Ministries, DJ Diamond, Kohl's and The Rock Island Group for helping provide so much joy for our youth! Thank you to BGC Joliet Board Member, James Holifield, for stepping into the role of Santa Claus! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event so special for our kids and families!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

\$10K BIKE GRANT



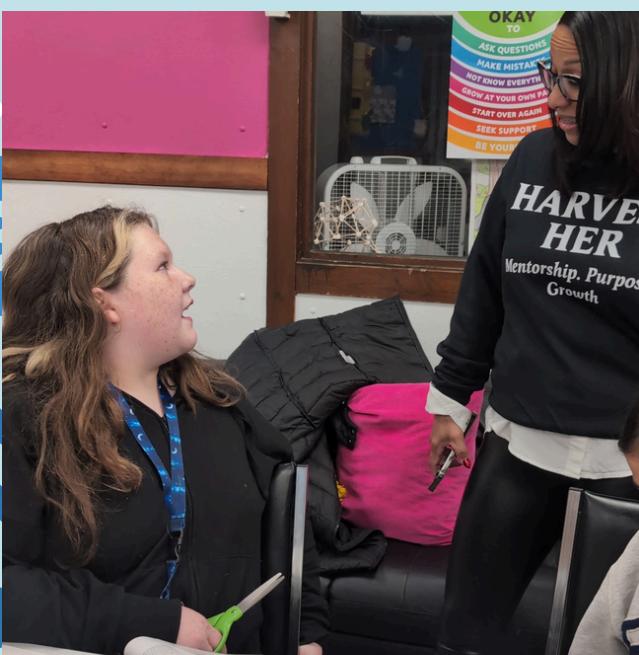
Thank you to the Team Depot Foundation, and the Home Depot Homer Glen location for securing a \$10,000 grant to purchase 69 new bicycles for Boys & Girls Club of Joliet Club members. Special thanks to Homer Glen Home Depot Team Members and volunteers who assembled the bikes and transported them to the Club.

The time and energy it took to assemble 69 bikes was a major feat, and we greatly appreciate your effort to make sure each bike were safely secured and properly assembled. We are so grateful for this wonderful gift you provided our young people. The Boys & Girls Club of Joliet and its club members are so grateful for this generous gift.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

VISION BOARD PARTY!



As part of our Character & Leadership Development programming, we thank Angelic Williams, Boys & Girls Club of Joliet Board Member, for leading an inspiring vision board activity with our middle school Club members. Youth selected images that reflected their passions, hopes, and dreams—encouraging self-reflection, goal-setting, and positive decision-making.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Joliet Police Officer Tyler Hundley for spending time with our youth and demonstrating continued support for our Club and community. Experiences like these help strengthen relationships, build character, and empower youth to become confident leaders.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JOLIET

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us for an unforgettable Masquerade Gala at the beautiful Haley Mansion on Saturday, March 14th at 6:00 pm. The GWB Boys & Girls Club of Joliet invites you to an evening of inspiration, elegance, and impact as we come together to support youth in need.

Enjoy a night of purpose, community, and celebration in a stunning setting—all while helping to create brighter futures for the young people we serve.
Black tie optional. Masks encouraged.

Purchase your tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-annual-gala-7>

We look forward to celebrating with you and making a meaningful difference together.