



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER VENTURA**

Mom & dad are worried.
This must be really bad.

I miss going to the
Club and being
with the staff

I can't go outside. I
can't see my friends.
What can I do?

These are just a few of the worries from our kids as we all grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Crisis Facing Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura has always been a place of safety, learning, mentorship and refuge for kids in our community who need it most. During this crisis, it's important that our kids continue to have a connection with that much needed safety net.

COVID-19 is affecting our member families in Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy in a variety of ways:

- 80% of our families live at or below the poverty line.
- 93% of our families cannot work without the care that our programs provide, at a cost that they can afford; and many are now unemployed because of the crisis, dealing with unprecedented challenges.
- 100% are isolated at home in this crisis

Parents are concerned about their kids, their jobs, their futures

- I'm really struggling with home schooling my child.
- My kids really need the Club and the socialization. When will you re-open?
- I've been furloughed and income is becoming an issue.
- Our apartment is very small and being at home all day is presenting many issues.

How Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura Is Responding

Our Board and Club leadership made the decision, from day one of the Club closure, to continue to invest in staff so they remain gainfully employed, and to take this time to prepare for providing even higher quality of services to our youth – both virtually during the crisis, and so we'll be ready to go when the Club reopens. Both our staff and kids will need a feeling of safety to engage in the important work that needs to be done.

INVESTING IN STAFF AND CRITICAL PROGRAMS

- None of our Staff has been furloughed or laid-off.
- Staff have completed several online trainings for social emotional wellness, enhanced programming and safety training.
- Staff have planned program schedules for additional full-day programming, summer programming and virtual programming. We will also share tips with parents to help them as educators in the crisis.
- We have made personal calls to all of our families to check on their well-being, whether they have technology and connectivity, and to gather emails for regular communication during the crisis.
- We are beginning virtual programming to ensure kids are still learning in the out-of-school time through targeted, engaging activities and mentorship, which is crucially needed more than ever right now. Our virtual programming launch date is scheduled for April 13, 2020.

PREPARING FOR NEW NORMS

We realize that the issues and challenges with academic loss, anxiety, hyperactivity, and finding the “new norm” will present new and unforeseen challenges for the youth that we serve. In anticipation of these challenges, we are equipping our staff with additional training, skills and support through partnerships with SEWI (Social Emotional Wellness Initiative), Ventura County Behavioral Health and the Ventura Unified School District.

Overcoming This Crisis Together

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura will re-open once we know it is safe to do so. In the meantime, kids and teens need us now more than ever before and our organization has responded with strategic programs to meet their needs.

When we do reopen, we will have a huge job ahead of us – to get the kids of the Greater Ventura area back on track to their great futures. We will have to mitigate learning losses and make sure kids do not slip through the cracks. Long-term, our Club will be vital to rebuilding our community. For parents and families getting back on their feet, the Club will save them money when funds have never been tighter, provide a safe place for their children to go while they are working, and offer two meals and a snack each day for no cost. For kids, the Club will restore a feeling of safety that has been lost as they face empty grocery store shelves, sick friends and neighbors, school cancellations, and the 24-hour news cycle. Club programs and familiar staff, ready and excited to serve our community, will get kids back on track. And maybe most importantly, at the Club, kids and teens will get to be kids again, doing the familiar things they love at the Club: Playing with friends, spending time with mentors and heroes, watching guest speakers, and going on field trips.

Will You Stand with Us to Support the Kids of the Greater Ventura Area?

Join us as we respond to our community in crisis. Your gift today helps kids today!

Your gift of:

\$100	Provides 2 hours of online programming for 20 kids
\$500	Provides 15 hours of crisis training for staff
\$1,500	Provides 1 full day of programming for 100 kids at one location
\$5,000	Covers staff costs for 1 Club for a week

Thank you for your continued support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura!

The Mission of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura is an incredible value for families, providing \$3,585 of services for an annual membership fee of just \$25. And, we provide value to the entire community – **for every \$1 invested in Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura, \$16 in economic benefits is returned to youth, families and society.** Your support increases the earning power of parents now and youth in the future and saves societal costs such as healthcare, public assistance and incarceration.*

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