



September 8, 2016

Mr. Dave Roberts
County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Coast Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Roberts,

The BGCSDTO has an innovative STEM program that promotes leadership, workforce readiness and youth development by offering workshops, including computational thinking, computer programming and engineering hardware, to school-aged youth. This program introduces participants to learn to use technology, engineering, and life skills learned in the farm and kitchen as a means of creating and solving problems in their world. Participants work in either pairs or teams, necessitating communication and acceptance of differences. The use of our Centers for a Healthy Lifestyle as the launch pad for intermediate level programming and information technology, combined with the principals of academic success, leadership, civic engagement and healthy lifestyles is a winning marriage of youth development in a much needed STEM career field.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito (BGCSDTO) is dedicated to providing POSITIVE activities developing the education, health, self-esteem and character of youth. BGCSDTO is the longest serving youth organization in our community. The Club's location in North County Coastal San Diego serves areas of economic affluence as well as affordable housing communities. For 50 years we have turned no child away and remain in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. Our seven Club facilities offer youth access to quality programs and services. The Center for a Healthy Lifestyle (CHL) provides a platform integrating farming, food and science. Hands on, real world experiments emphasize science and healthy decision making. The Urban Farm and Teaching Kitchens normalize boys and girls and kids from all socio economic backgrounds in their technical experiences, ensuring that *Great Futures Start Here*.

The overall budget for the Urban Farm at CHL is \$120,000.00 of which \$60,000.00 has been raised and investing in developing the property, owned by San Dieguito High School District. Our request for a grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 would allow us to complete the outdoor classroom and begin purchasing teaching equipment to provide the community with an educational resource like no other. Time is of the essence as we are the single San Diego County stop on a Rotary International West Coast "Connecting for Good Tour" in which over 1,000 Rotarians from across the county are invited come to the Urban Farm for a day of service on November 9th, 2016. The Clubs are also working to bring sailors from the USS Roosevelt to help their ship achieve special volunteer recognition. We have an immediate need to purchase remaining supplies to make best use of the generous volunteer effort the community will make on our behalf.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito has received the following support since 2010

8/3/2010 Griset Clubhouse Upgrades - \$50,000.00

3/5/14 Harper Pool equipment - \$20,000.00

3/3/15 Ocean Knoll Clubhouse modular - \$53,000.00

The County's generosity has been distributed across our branches allowing us to provide positive activities to develop the education, health, self-esteem and character of youth. For 50 years we have turned no child away and remain in the forefront of youth development by providing access to quality programs and services ensuring that *great futures start here*. By building on our previous success we strive to be even more focused on helping Club kids achieve their goals. County funding for capital improvements is vital to continuing this mission. Any award amount will be used immediately and fully to finish developing the Urban Farm and Outdoor Classroom improvements at the Center for a Healthy Lifestyle at our Griset Clubhouse in Encinitas.

We appreciate your support of our Encinitas branch and the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito as a whole. Thank you for all you do to serve the community.

Respectfully,

Marineke Vandervort
Chief Executive Officer

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.