



## MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Maggie Cushine,  
Director of Grants Management and Program Facilitation  
Office Phone: 661-325-3730 x 239  
Cell Phone: 661-565-6191  
mcushine@bgclubsofkerncounty.org



## Boys & Girls Club Announces Grant from Panda Cares Foundation for Academic Support Programming

Bakersfield, CA (September 1, 2022) – **The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County has received a \$10,000 Panda Academic Success Grant from the Panda Cares(R) Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Panda Express(R), which will support the nonprofit’s mission of enabling and enriching the lives of young people.** Through this partnership, Panda Cares and Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County will drive academic success for youth at Boys & Girls Clubs through the support of Project Learn and other academic enriching activities, including Power Hour, DIY STEM, and MyFuture.

“Panda’s partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America furthers our commitment to impact and inspire a brighter future through health and education, creating powerful learning pathways and focused care for the holistic well-being of youth nationwide,” said Dr. Peggy Cherng, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Panda Express. “This donation brings us one step closer to achieving our long-term vision of building strong communities and fostering the growth of our young leaders.”

The national partnership will build on Panda Cares mission to support children and families in underserved communities under the pillars of health and education. With a mutual commitment to helping more youth reach their full academic potential through learning initiatives that are responsive to the unique needs of each young learner, Panda Cares monetary donation to local Boys & Girls Clubs will ensure more than 500 Boys & Girls Clubs will receive funding to provide high-quality in-person and virtual learning opportunities. The donation will also help pilot Panda Cares Centers of Hope, dedicated areas at BGCA that foster equity by delivering high-quality Club experiences that fuel the holistic needs of learning.

### About Panda Express

On a mission to inspire better lives, Panda Express® is the largest Asian dining concept in the U.S. Family-owned and operated since 1983 by co-founders and co-CEOs Andrew and Peggy Cherng, Panda Express is best known as a trailblazer for creating a wide variety of industry-first recipes, including its best seller the Original Orange Chicken® and award-winning Honey Walnut Shrimp™, which have defined the category of authentic American Chinese cuisine. Each dish at Panda Express, including the Wok Smart® selections, is thoughtfully crafted with quality ingredients and inspired by bold Chinese flavors and culinary principles. The restaurant brand has more than 2,200 locations and has introduced American Chinese cuisine to twelve international countries.

Powered by this global family of associates, [Panda Cares®](#), the philanthropic arm of Panda Express, has raised more than \$237 million and dedicated countless volunteer hours in bettering the health and education for over 12 million youths, as well as supporting communities in need since 1999. In 2020, the organization established the Panda Cares Scholars Program to provide

the necessary funding, academic support and leadership development to help high school and college students learn, lead and thrive towards a bright future. For more information, visit [pandaexpress.com](http://pandaexpress.com) or [pandacares.org](http://pandacares.org).

**About BGCKC:** For over 55 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County have delivered quality, life-changing services to youth. These youth benefit from trained, caring Youth Development Professional staff and volunteers who help young people take control of their lives, envision productive futures, and reach their goals. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County have three traditional and 66 school-based Club sites in Arvin, Bakersfield, Frazier Park, Gorman, Lamont, Kernville, McFarland, Lake Isabella, Lebec, and Tehachapi. The Nutrition Program serves over 4,500 meals daily to children in need through 12 community and Club sites. **Mission:** To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. [www.bgclubsofkerncounty.org](http://www.bgclubsofkerncounty.org) ###