



MEDIA ALERT

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County awarded \$160,000 from Panda Cares Foundation/Panda Express to support academic success at local Boys & Girls Clubs

Bakersfield, CA (December 12, 2024) – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County have been selected to receive a \$160,000 Panda Cares Project Learn (Academic Success) Grant to drive academic success for youth at 12 local Boys & Girls Clubs. This opportunity is made possible through the Panda Cares Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Panda Express.

Not all youth have access to quality education, so Panda Cares partners with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to create opportunities for kids and teens to learn, lead, and thrive, focusing on increasing the quality of academic success programming in Clubs. This partnership empowers thousands of kids and teens at Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide to excel in school and build their character and leadership. Since 2020, Panda Cares has committed more than \$42 million to enhance academic programming, support Project Learn, and establish Panda Cares Centers of Hope in Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide.

Selected traditional and school-based Boys & Girls Club sites:

E. L. Jack and Monica Armstrong Youth Center	Evergreen Club
Stockdale Boys & Girls Club	Voorhies Elementary
Colonel Nichols Club	Mt. Vernon Elementary
Stella Hills Elementary	McKinley Elementary
Horace Mann Elementary	Thorner Elementary
Frank West Elementary	North Beardsley Elementary

With a shared commitment to help more youth reach their full academic potential through learning initiatives that are responsive to the unique needs of each Club member, Panda Cares' generous support provides funding to support high-quality, in-person learning opportunities for more than 600 Boys & Girls Clubs annually.

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](#) or [pandacares.org](#).

About BGCKC: For over 58 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 2,200 meals daily to children in need through several 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.bgckc.org](#)

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