



# "BE GREAT" GALA

**May 17, 2023 | Greentree Country Club**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF NEW ROCHELLE



**BE GREAT**

**On behalf of the thousands of children who participate in Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle programs each year, our board of directors, staff, and volunteers extend sincere thanks to Greentree Country Club for its hospitality and generosity in making this event a success.**

# **BGCNR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# PROGRAM

WELCOME  
BGCNR BOARD PRESIDENT  
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OPENING REMARKS  
BGCNR CEO  
**BECKY MAZZANOBILE**

BGCNR YOUTH OF THE YEAR  
SPOTLIGHT  
**JUAN RUIZ-DIAZ**  
**BRIAN PENN**  
**VIANNEY GODINEZ**

AWARD PRESENTATIONS  
**NATE ADAMS**  
**ARNIE AUSTIN**  
**NICOLE BELL-SIMON**  
**LUIS MERLO**  
**CANDACE PINN**

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE  
**TAHJIR FERNAND**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

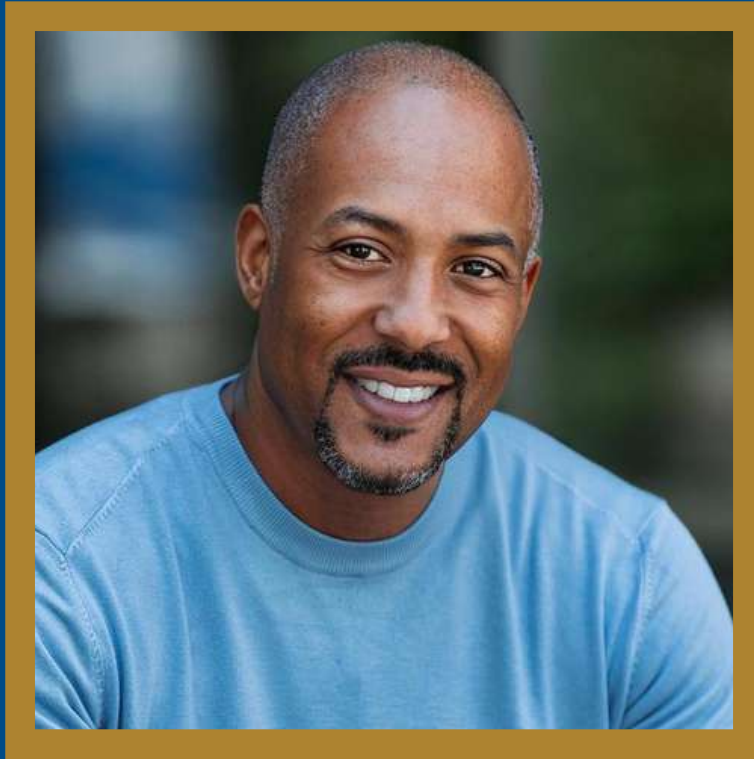
**Welcome to Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle's "Be Great" Gala. We're thrilled to share this special evening with community and business leaders, legislators, private and public sector partners, and other like-minded neighbors who support our mission to offer opportunity to the youth and families who need us most.**

**Since 1929, we've been an integral part of the Westchester community, paving paths to academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good citizenship for our members, and supporting parents working to create a better tomorrow for their families.**

**Today, we serve 7,000 youth annually via 15 school sites and two clubhouses. With your help, we'll continue to grow in scope and scale, and strengthen our position as one of Westchester's leading youth development organizations. Great things are happening at BGCNR and we invite you to take an active role in our future!**



# OUR HONOREES



## NATHANIEL (NATE) ADAMS

**Nathaniel (Nate) Adams III was born and raised in Bronx, NY and is a graduate of Purdue University. He is program coordinator of the My Brother's Keeper initiative for the City School District and City of New Rochelle (MBK New Ro), and actively works with students within all secondary schools in the school district. Nate's life's work has been to inspire others to believe that "the best is yet to come."**

**Prior to joining MBK New Ro, Nate was director of operations for Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR) for seven years, overseeing daily operations of 13 school**

# **OUR HONOREES**

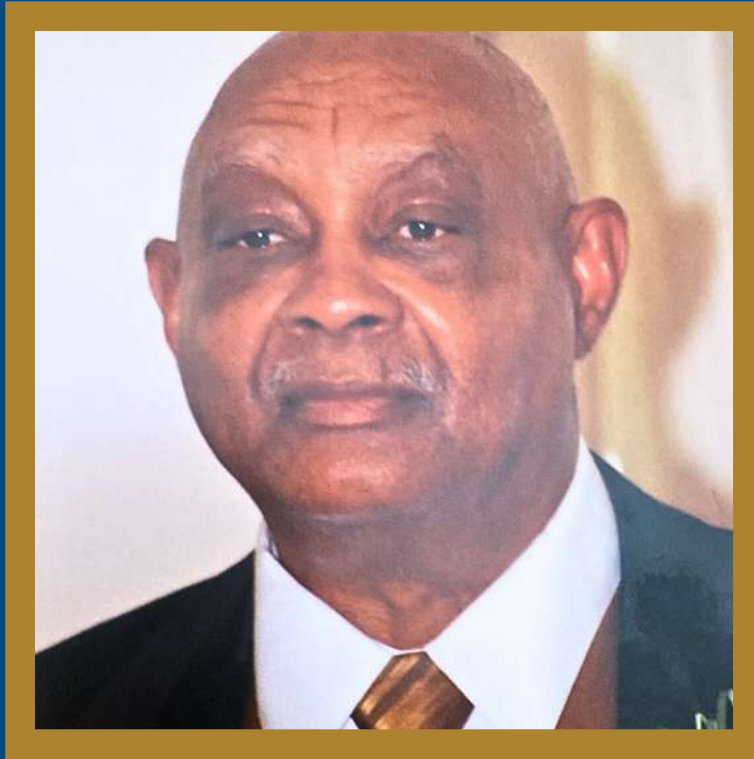
## **NATE ADAMS (cont.)**

**sites and two clubhouses, and seeing membership increase nearly 200% during his tenure. While at BGCNR, he also established fruitful relationships with several Fortune 500 firms, including PepsiCo, Planet Fitness, Microsoft, and Viacom.**

**In 2016, Nate was certified by the North American Family Institute to collaborate with the City of New Rochelle to foster positive relationships between the city's youth and police officers. In addition, he is a member of New Rochelle African American Advisory Committee, and City School District of New Rochelle Safety, Code of Conduct, and Green School Committees. Nate helped to establish New Rochelle YTL Huguenot Elite Football, serving over 150 participants each year, and is president of the Metro North NY Youth Football and Cheer Program, serving youth from New Rochelle, Mt Vernon, Yonkers, White Plains, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, and Spring Valley.**

**Along with his wife of 15 years, New Rochelle native Monique (McGuire) Adams, Nate is a proud parent of Lailah Monet Adams, a student of Albert Leonard Middle School, and Langston Carter Adams, who attends Barnard Elementary School.**

# OUR HONOREES



## ARNOLD (ARNIE) AUSTIN

**Arnold (Arnie) Austin was raised by a single mother in the projects of New Rochelle. An athletic child, he joined Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR) to “stay out of trouble” while participating in a variety of sports activities. In his early years as a member, Arnie was drawn to football and track, and, with the support of BGCNR staff, continued to excel in both sports. He broke numerous sports records, and earned both local and state awards as a student athlete at New Rochelle High School (NRHS); some of his records still stand today, such as his 100-yard punt return. Arnie**



# **OUR HONOREES**

## **ARNIE AUSTIN (cont.)**

**was an all-county athlete in football and, while a member of the JV football team, scored five touchdowns in one game.**

**Arnie also holds the New York State record in the 180-yard low hurdles and was a member of the 880 record-breaking relay team. In addition, he was all-county in track and co-captain of the track team. In recognition of his achievements, he received the Con Edison Award and was named “Best Athlete” at NRHS for the 1959-1960 academic year. Arnie eventually went on to play defensive back for the 1964 Westchester Crusaders of the Atlantic Coast Football League, and was inducted into the New Rochelle Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.**

**Most recently, Arnie has been a committed member of Remington Men’s Club, which supports BGCNR’s Remington Clubhouse facility and programming. He and his fellow members have provided funds for capital improvements, sponsored member trips, and funded college scholarships, and continue to contribute to BGCNR programs such as Keystone Club and summer camp.**

# OUR HONOREES



## NICOLE BELL-SIMON

**Nicole Bell-Simon is an accomplished finance executive and a very active community member. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS in business administration, with concentrations in finance and accounting from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.**

**Nicole has held numerous positions in finance and accounting, and currently serves as group vice president of financial planning and analysis at Gartner, Inc. She is passionate about driving diversity and inclusion efforts and is co-chair of**

# OUR HONOREES

## **NICOLE BELL-SIMON (cont.)**

**Gartner's Finance + Inclusion Council. Before joining Gartner, Nicole worked at American Express, John Wiley & Sons, LexisNexis, and Pepsi-Cola in various strategic and change management finance roles. She began her career as a tax accountant at Arthur Andersen, LLP and is a certified public accountant.**

**Nicole has been a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated for over 30 years; is a member of the Kappa Epsilon Zeta chapter serving Bronx, NY; and was a long-time board member and past president of the Westchester chapter of Mocha Moms, Incorporated. She also is an associate member of the Westchester chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated; served as co-chair of alumni affairs for Harvard Business School African American Alumni Association; and now serves on the board of Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle as treasurer. And, as a voracious reader, she is presently in three book clubs.**

**Nicole is married to Steven Simon and is the proud mother of Tyler and Sydney. She is the daughter of Linda Bell and granddaughter of Frances Holcomb. Nicole owes them incredible gratitude as they shaped her into the woman she is today.**

# OUR HONOREES



## VIANNEY GODINEZ

**Selected among four outstanding local teens, Vianney Godinez was named 2023 Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR) this past March. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.**

**As Youth of the Year, Vianney will serve as an ambassador for all teens in New Rochelle, receive a \$1,000 college**

# **OUR HONOREES**

## **VIANNEY GODINEZ (cont.)**

**scholarship from BGCNR, and advance to the New York State Youth of the Year competition, which will be held later this month.**

**A quintessential "club kid," Vianney is a leader who is bold, unafraid to always ask the tough questions, and a collaborative problem-solver. Her club journey began in kindergarten as a member of our Mascaro Clubhouse, and she has been a part of many BGCNR programs, including Smart Girls, Torch Club, and our new Youth Civics Council.**

**As a member of Youth Civics Council, Vianney had the opportunity to advocate for youth issues on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, where she also toured the White House and met First Daughter Ashley Biden. In addition to her time at BGCNR, she serves as the junior class president at New Rochelle High School.**

# OUR HONOREES



## LUIS MERLO

**Luis Merlo has been involved with Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR) for nearly 10 years as a parent, coach, and supporter. He has two sons who are active members of the club and is grateful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that has provided support, encouragement, and opportunity to his children and family. Today, he focuses his volunteer coaching efforts at BGCNR.**

**His eldest son became a member of the club as a first grader and, shortly after joining the basketball team, inspired Luis**

# OUR HONOREES

## **LUIS MERLO (cont.)**

**to begin coaching. (He believes he was asked because of his enthusiastic cheering from the sidelines.) He has guided the team for four years now, helping youth who are new to the sport to develop basic skills and focus on self-improvement.**

**Luis began working at the young age of 15 and, after earning a GED at 21, entered the real estate field, specializing in short sale investments. He also is co-owner of a hair salon and convenience store in Westchester. In addition to his work coaching BGCNR's Mascaro basketball team, he has served as a volunteer coach at the Pelton Athletic Club in Yonkers, and has coached several local t-ball and flag football teams, including the Yonkers Knights. He is certified by USA Sports for baseball, flag football, and youth tackle football, and has attended New York Knicks coaching clinics to continue honing his skills as a mentor for youth athletes.**

# OUR HONOREES



## CANDACE PINN

**Candace Pinn is an independent consultant and retired educator, with 30 years of education experience and 26 years of service to the New Rochelle community. She began her career in Washington, DC, in the emerging computer communications field as a computer analyst. Candace held positions at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service, and Morgan Stanley, and, after the birth of her second child, returned to school to study education.**



# **OUR HONOREES**

## **CANDACE PINN (cont.)**

**In addition to her background in technology, Candace is a natural teacher who completed an MA in education in 1994 while gaining experience teaching young children in New York City public and private schools. In 1996, she relocated her family to Westchester County and took a position at Barnard Elementary School in New Rochelle. Candace subsequently became a master early childhood educator while enjoying many leadership roles over her career; a culturally responsive education (CRE) staff developer/trainer; Federation of United School Employees (FUSE) representative; mentor teacher; and teacher leader and chairperson/representative of district-wide committees on diversity, equity and inclusion, curriculum and instruction, response to intervention (RTI), and nutrition.**

**After becoming a member of the Westchester Alliance of Black School Educators (WABSE) in 2006, she was elected president and has served in this capacity for over 11 years, guiding WABSE in its work to fund scholarships for college-bound students; increase its network; and provide meaningful educational and professional development experiences for adults and students. Candace also is an**

# OUR HONOREES

## CANDACE PINN (cont.)

**activist leader supporting DEI initiatives by working with state legislators and the New York State Department of Education on education reform policy and law.**

**Since 1996, Candace and her family have been involved with Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, first as parents and participants and, eventually, as coaches and supporters. In 2007, Candace joined BGCNR's board, overseeing the organization's finances, staff management, marketing, fundraising, and community outreach. She later assumed the role of board secretary and, in 2013, was elected board chair and went on to advocate for representation on the leadership team to reflect the backgrounds and experiences of the children it serves.**

**Candace is a native of Brooklyn, NY and holds an MS in computer science from New York University, an MA in education from Columbia Teachers College, and a BS in general engineering from Tufts University. She has four adult children and resides with her husband in Mount Vernon, NY.**

**RXR**

**IS PROUD TO SUPPORT**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
NEW ROCHELLE 2023  
"BE GREAT" GALA**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**NATE ADAMS  
ARNIE AUSTIN  
NICOLE BELL-SIMON  
LUIS MERLO  
CANDACE PINN**

**AND 2023 YOUTH OF THE YEAR  
VIANNEY GODINEZ**

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**New Rochelle**

*The Home Town*

RALPH E. ROBERTSON



# **IN KIND/AUCTION DONORS**

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO TONIGHT'S  
HONOREES AND  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
NEW ROCHELLE  
FOR GUIDING OUR  
YOUTH IN BUILDING  
GREAT FUTURES**

***THE NAVIN FAMILY***

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO TONIGHT'S  
HONOREES AND  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
NEW ROCHELLE  
FOR YOUR EFFORTS  
TO BUILD GREAT  
FUTURES IN OUR  
COMMUNITY**

**THE CLARK FAMILY**

**WE SALUTE  
TONIGHT'S  
HONOREES AND  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF NEW ROCHELLE  
FOR ENCOURAGING  
YOUTH TO "BE  
GREAT"**





**We are proud to support the  
great work of Boys & Girls  
Club of New Rochelle.**

**We know that by supporting our  
neighbors, we're strengthening  
the same communities in which  
we live and work, and building  
relationships that last a lifetime.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF NEW ROCHELLE



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**Congratulations, Nate, on  
this well-deserved honor.**

**So proud of your  
accomplishments and  
grateful for your  
unwavering commitment  
to our community.**

**Thank you for paving  
paths to great futures for  
our youth.**

***Lucille Renwick***  
***BGCNR Board Member***

***Thank you to  
Boys & Girls Club  
of New Rochelle  
leadership and staff  
for your tireless work to  
provide opportunities to  
Westchester youth  
and their families.***

***Your efforts create a  
stronger community for  
us all.***

***Lucille Renwick  
BGCNR Board Member***

**Congratulations to all of  
our GREAT honorees.**

**It is people like you who  
make New Rochelle  
such a special place.**

***Jamie and Derek Deutsch***



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# THE REMINGTON MEN'S CLUB



**Our organization was established by individuals who attended the Million Man March and returned to revitalize a volunteer organization once headed by members who were no longer active in the community. Since then, our mission has been to support Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle's Remington Clubhouse, and help enhance its programs and facility in ways not provided for in the organization's budget.**

**We have been successful in the past by helping to cover the cost of bus transportation for various trips and excursions, contributing scholarships for graduating seniors attending college, purchasing tables and chairs, and supporting club programs such as "Be Great," Keystone Club, summer camp, and annual golf outings.**

**On one occasion, a member wrote an application for a New York State training grant that funded an after-school program. Our organization has been honored with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's "Up Lift Award" and BGCNR's "Great Citizens Award," and received proclamations from both city and county officials. Some of our fundraising activities include annual dances and fishing trips to Cape Cod, among others.**



## HELPING THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Matthew Meachem, President**  
**David C. Lee, President Emeritus**  
**Charles Gillum, Jr., Treasurer**  
**\*Breness Smith**  
**Jim Pruitt, Secretary**

**Albert Anderson**  
**Arnold Austin**  
**Walter Brown**  
**\*Dennis Gladden**  
**Alfred Peters**

**David Peters**  
**William Petite**  
**Ed Thomas**  
**Luther Vinson**  
**Kent Washington**

\* Deceased

**Best Wishes to**  
**The Boys & Girls Club**  
**of New Rochelle**  
**On the occasion of**  
**The 2023**  
**BE GREAT Gala**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES:**

**Nate Adams Arnie Austin Nicole Bell-Simon**  
**Luis Merlo Candace Pinn**  
***And 2023 Youth of the Year:***  
**Vianney Godinez**



**Nathalia Fernandez**  
NYS Senator  
34th District



**Shelley B. Mayer**  
NYS Senator  
37th District



**Amy Paulin**  
NYS Assemblymember  
88th District



**Steven Otis**  
NYS Assemblymember  
91st District

**THANK YOU  
TO TONIGHT'S HONOREES  
AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
NEW ROCHELLE  
FOR SUPPORTING YOUTH AND  
FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY**

***ILISSA AND PAUL WARHIT***

***Congratulations to Youth of the Year  
Vianney Godinez  
And Thank You to Boys & Girls Club  
of New Rochelle for Your Service and  
Dedication to the Community!!***



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**Thank you to the Boys &  
Girls Club of New Rochelle  
for being our “village.”**

**We are incredibly grateful  
for everything you do for our  
children and our community.**

**The Arias Family**



*Congrats!*

**to all of the Honorees!**

**You make New Rochelle  
a better and stronger  
community for everyone**

**Deborah Blatt & Shmuel Vasser**

The **Sharing Shelf**



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Blessings and immense gratitude to  
my colleague and friend

**Candace Pinn**

for the many social and academic  
skills you've taught hundreds of  
students;

for the compassion and respect  
you have for families;

for the meaningful and important  
books you've shared;

for leading me on my journey to  
Crafting Freedom; and

for your hard work for members of  
FUSE, WABSE, and BGCNR.

With love and respect,

**Vicki Rashbaum**

Retired School Social Worker  
Barnard School

**Congratulations to all of tonight's  
honorees!**

**A special thank you to Nicole and Nate  
for all your support of the club.**

**Best wishes to Vianney – BGCNR's  
AWESOME 2023 Youth of the Year!**

**Wishing all the team a wonderful BE  
GREAT evening!**

**Virginia Beirne and Family**

# RECOGNIZE PATTERNS, SPOT OPPORTUNITIES.



ClearBridge is proud to support the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle's "Be Great" Gala.

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***Thank you to Boys  
& Girls Club of New  
Rochelle for paving  
paths to great  
futures***

**Mark Steffensen**



**Our sincere congratulations  
to honoree Nicole Bell-Simon**

**Sylvan Learning of Northeast  
Bronx**

***Pleased to Support  
Boys & Girls Club  
of New Rochelle  
in Creating  
Opportunities for  
Our Youth***

**Barbara Crane**





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**Thanks to  
Boys & Girls Club of New  
Rochelle and tonight's  
honorees for your work  
to support youth and  
families**



***Rick Monzon***  
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OUR WORK POSSIBLE!**



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OF AMERICA**

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*For Youth*



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF NEW ROCHELLE**

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