

A Special Valentine's Day at Boys & Girls Club

By Claudia Aller and Gina Hines

Thank you to our 18 WAHHI members who volunteered at the Valentine's Day project at Boys & Girls Club, and to Difference Maker **Elaine Scott**, the mastermind behind this project.

Founded in 1998, the Boys & Girls Club of Bluffton has played a critical role in providing young people a safe place to go after school, supervised by trusted, caring adults. Through their structured after-school programs and relational support, these youths are encouraged to develop the attitudes, skill values and behaviors that enable them to succeed in life.



This non-profit is one of our 2024 WAHHI Charitable Fund Grant recipients, and we also partnered with the group for this Difference Makers project. We were given a presentation and tour of the beautiful facilities and learned more about this amazing organization. After the tour, we taught the kids (in six different classrooms) a Valentine's-themed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lesson about binary coding. They made bracelets that spelled L-O-V-E using colored beads to represent the corresponding code. Each grade level, 1st - 5th grade, had a WAHHI Difference Maker leader and one or two helpers.

The Boys & Girls Club of Bluffton serves over 600 members annually, from kindergarten through high school. Bluffton area schools transport nearly 350 students to the Club every day to take part in safe, secure and educational programming focused on five core areas: Character & Leadership Development, Education & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, The Arts and Sports/Fitness & Recreation. The Club is always looking for volunteers to help with after-school activities.



Please check out more photos and read the lovely thank you note we received from the Boys & Girls Club Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Pace, on the next page.

Hi Gina,

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day project that you and the ladies from the Women's Association of Hilton Head Island did with our members today. So many of our members came to me showing off the bracelets and necklaces that they made, and our staff expressed their appreciation also for the special, theme appropriate activity for this day. I think the project was a success!

We welcome you to come again anytime, as a group with a special project or as individuals to volunteer.

Thanks also for the generous grant. You will hear from our Executive Director with an official thank you, but we are grateful for your support of our Club in so many ways.

**Sincerely,
Linda**

