



**OLIVET  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF READING & BERKS COUNTY**



VOL. IX

*THE OLIVET GAZETTE*

AUGUST 2025



WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter

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## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Camp went out with a splash! Our staff and campers packed a whole lot of fun into the last two weeks of camp, including:

- **CFA Performances** of **Shrek the Musical, Jr.**
- **RBI Baseball Banquet**
- **Pool Party** courtesy of **Brentwood Industries' 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BIG GIVE**
- **Teen Takeovers**

In addition, we held a **luncheon** to **honor the generous donors** who funded **\$47,000 in scholarships** for exceptional **college-bound Olivet alumni**, and **celebrate** those **recipients**:

- Noah Gibney
- Jannasea Rodriguez
- Jeremiah Santiago
- Kahlil Samuels
- Nico Sosa

Now, our staff is busy attending **back-to-school outreach** events and preparing for the start of our after school programming on September 2!



Congrats, scholarship recipients! Thank you to Sue Palmer, Art Haberberger, and Bernice Lebo for helping these former Club Kids achieve their dreams!



Congrats to the mega-talented cast of Shrek, Jr. on two incredible performances! You're all superstars!



All I can say is, **WOW!** We wrapped up Summer Camp this month, and not only was it filled with incredible, educational, and enriching experiences for our Club Kids, but we hit our highest membership numbers since 2018 – which is even more remarkable when you acknowledge that we're operating without two of our biggest facilities. And, if you include our RBI Baseball, RYPA and D.R.E.A.M. members, our total number of youth served is nearly 1,000. Just you wait until Mulberry and PAL reopen – the sky's the limit next year! I am truly in awe of the staff, volunteers, supporters, and donors who made it all happen. Thank you for believing in our mission. You have helped us reach one thousand young people. I'll say it again: **WOW!** Now, let's get back to school.

-Rick Perez, CEO

# LAST BITS OF SUMMER FUN!



## STAFF OF THE MONTH

**Jordan Rodriguez**

Director of Programming

This month, we're featuring the mastermind behind our unforgettable summer camp: Jordan Rodriguez. His drive to help our Club Kids have fun on purpose never stops. While he was joining our campers in celebrating the end of summer with parties and performances, he was busy making sure they'll have the best school year yet. From leading staff trainings to planning programs, attending community outreach events and more, Jordan does whatever it takes to make a positive impact on our youth.

**"I've always believed in the power of mentorship and providing youth with a safe, supportive environment where they can grow, be heard, and reach their full potential. Over time, seeing the transformation in the kids we serve; not just academically, but emotionally and socially, has deepened my commitment to youth development and reinforced why I chose this path. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the direct impact our programs have on the lives of the youth we serve. Whether it's a young person gaining confidence, overcoming personal challenges, or discovering a new passion, it's incredibly fulfilling to know I played a part in their growth. I often think of it as planting seeds and watching them grow; helping them build a foundation now that will support them for years to come. I also find joy in mentoring staff and developing future youth leaders. Seeing both kids and staff grow under my guidance is a powerful reminder that the work I do truly matters, not just for individuals, but for the future of our entire community,"** Jordan shared.