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Cox refurbishes innovation lab at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego's Oakes Branch to provide opportunities for local youth

\$20k grant from James M. Cox Foundation enabled club to purchase computers, 3D printer

SAN DIEGO – January 20, 2023 – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego celebrated its refurbished technology-filled Cox Innovation Lab at its William J. Oakes branch (2930 Marcy Ave.) on Jan. 18, made possible by a \$20,000 grant from the James M. Cox Foundation. The Cox Innovation Lab refurbishment was welcomed with a digital safety presentation for 4th-8th graders at the club, sponsored by Cox Communications.

The Cox Innovation Lab provides new and innovative technology and support to help bridge the digital divide for San Diego youth. It gives the youth visiting the Boys & Girls Club the ability to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) while providing those without a computer or internet access a way to get connected and manage through distance learning. It includes new computers, a smart board for virtual instruction, educational STEM games, Wifi and internet services provided by Cox.

To help ensure the youth not only have access to technology, but also know how to be safe online, local digital safety expert Jon Moffat of Cyber Education Consulting helped educate club members on topics such as cyberbullying, social networks and managing your digital reputation.

“Due to COVID, the social-emotional growth of our students has been stunted. This equipment and training will allow our members to traverse the internet safely,” said Danny Sherlock, CEO and president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego.

“A reliable connection to the internet is more important now than ever before,” said Ingo Hentschel, market vice president for Cox Communications in San Diego. “We’re committed to ensuring our local youth are connected at school, at home and right here at the Boys & Girls Club where so many children spend their afternoons. We look forward to the incredible achievements we’re going to see from all of these bright young people in the coming years.”

The donation is part of a greater \$150,000 gift from The James M. Cox Foundation to create five new Cox Innovation Labs across the nation, develop STEM programming and provide training for the Boys & Girls Club staff. The innovation labs are the cornerstone of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Club Tech program, which provide students access to curriculum to advance their computer literacy skills. These innovation labs also help bridge the digital divide for children without access to a computer or internet connection at home.

In addition to the innovation lab grant, Cox has made great strides in expanding broadband access in California. Through community partnerships with organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs, Connect2Compete (C2C) and CARES Act funding, Cox is moving the needle on bridging the digital divide for families and students in California.

About Cox Communications

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through technology. The largest private broadband company in America, we proudly serve seven million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that make each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

About The James M. Cox Foundation

The James M. Cox Foundation is named in honor of Cox Enterprises' founder and provides funding for capital campaigns and special projects in communities where the company operates. James M. Cox was Ohio's first three-term governor and the 1920 Democratic nominee for president of the United States.

The Foundation concentrates its community support in several areas, including: conservation and environment; early childhood education; empowering families and individuals for success; and health.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA.org) has provided a safe place for kids and teens to learn and grow. Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Boys & Girls Clubs programming promotes academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. More than 4,700 Clubs serve 4.6 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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