

For Immediate Release

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Bridgestone Joins Community Partners to Support A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club Following Recent Vandalism

- Six vehicles belonging to the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club in Birmingham, Ala., were vandalized in November, resulting in more than \$12,000 in damages.
- Bridgestone will donate \$25,000 in funds to ensure the vehicles are ready to transport Club kids through the winter months and beyond.
- The donation is part of the Bridgestone *Driving Great Futures* initiative, which helps kids and teens gain access to high-impact programming from Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide.

NASHVILLE, TN (December 16, 2020) – [Bridgestone Retail Operations](#) (Bridgestone), a subsidiary of [Bridgestone Americas](#), announced it has donated \$25,000 to the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club in Birmingham, Ala., after catalytic convertors were stolen from six Club vehicles in November, resulting in \$12,250 in damages. The contribution is part of the Bridgestone *Driving Great Futures* initiative to provide Club kids across the country with access to reliable transportation.

“When news reached us, that vehicles belonging to the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club had been vandalized, we immediately knew we had to step up to help,” said Joe Venezia, president, Bridgestone Retail Operations. Our “*Driving Great Futures*” partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America works to help solve one of the biggest challenges kids and families face: safely getting to and from the Clubs each day. We are thrilled that our funds, combined with the incredible support of local community partners, have allowed the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club to get back to their critical work of supporting Birmingham’s young people.”

In addition to supporting Club vehicle maintenance, the Bridgestone funds will be utilized to address technology needs for kids who continue to learn virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local community partners also assisted the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club by starting a GoFundMe campaign and replacing the Club vehicles’ stolen catalytic convertors.

“With the support of Bridgestone & our community, our members will not miss a beat,” says Tim Wofford, A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club chief operating officer. “Their daily art supplies, gaming, learning tools, and transportation will remain readily available. We will continue to rally around our members and provide them with some sense of normalcy in the face of this COVID-19 pandemic.”

Bridgestone began its nationwide *Driving Great Futures* partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 2015 to help youth gain access to high-impact, out-of-school programming. Since then, the company has raised and contributed \$13.9 million for Boys & Girls Clubs, including \$1.6 million this year for Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s COVID-19 Relief Fund. In addition to collecting monetary donations, Bridgestone employees also donate company time to service Club vehicles and volunteer at Clubs in their local communities. The program is part of the company’s Our Way to Serve corporate social responsibility (CSR) commitment to improve the way people move, live, work, and play.

For more Bridgestone company news visit [BridgestoneAmericas.com](https://www.BridgestoneAmericas.com).

About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.:

Nashville, Tennessee-based Bridgestone Americas, Inc. is a subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, a global leader providing sustainable mobility and advanced solutions. Bridgestone Americas develops, manufactures and markets a diverse portfolio of original equipment and replacement tires, tire-centric solutions, mobility solutions, and other rubber-associated and diversified products that deliver social value and customer value. Guided by its global corporate social responsibility commitment, Our Way to Serve, Bridgestone is dedicated to shaping a sustainable future of mobility and improving the way people move, live, work and play.

About Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC:

Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC (BSRO) is headquartered in Nashville, Tenn. and operates the largest network of company-owned automotive service providers in the world — more than 2,200 tire and vehicle service centers across the United States — including Firestone Complete Auto Care, Tires Plus, Hibdon Tires Plus and Wheel Works store locations. Credit First National Association and Firestone Complete Fleet Care operations are also part of BSRO. BSRO is a member of the Bridgestone Americas family of companies.

About A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club

A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club has operated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since 1966. It is affiliated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, a nationwide organization of nearly 4,000 Club locations with a similar core mission of serving some four million children and teens through Club membership and community outreach. More than 1,400 children come through our doors each year, ranging in age from 6 to 18. We offer an alternative safe place for children within our community to stay out of trouble, remain in school and succeed in life. Our dedication to providing a great future to those who need us most remains at our core even during a global pandemic. When coronavirus hit in March 2020, like many other boys and girls’ clubs, our doors were forced to close. With careful planning and guidance, we reopened to members as an in-person remote hub while local schools moved to virtual learning. Safety will always be our highest priority, and that includes protecting our young members’ futures.

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