

News Release



BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS, INC.
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For Immediate Release

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Bridgestone Retail Operations Donates \$100,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio to Help Close Technology Gap for Club Kids

- **The donation will supply equipment, enhanced internet access, hotspots and other resources to help Club kids stay connected.**
- **The gift bolsters Bridgestone's commitment to advancing access to technology in the region, which is home to the Bridgestone Americas Technical Center in Akron, Ohio.**
- **Announcement made during Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, extending a legacy of professional golf events that have contributed more than \$30 million to Northeast Ohio communities.**

NASHVILLE, TN (June 23, 2021) – [Bridgestone Retail Operations](#) (BSRO), a subsidiary of [Bridgestone Americas](#) (Bridgestone), announced it has donated \$100,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio to provide local Club kids access to critical technology resources and bridge digital divides. The gift was announced at Firestone Country Club during the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship and is part of the Bridgestone *Driving Great Futures* program that supports Boys & Girls Clubs through customer and teammate donations at all 2,200 BSRO stores nationwide.

With this donation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio will be able to provide equipment, enhanced internet access, hotspots and other resources to help Club Kids gain access to digital tools they may otherwise go without. In addition to 11 area BSRO stores, Northeast Ohio is home to the Bridgestone Americas Technical Center, where more than 700 teammates are working to advance science and innovation in smart tires, non-pneumatic (airless) tires, connected mobility, sustainable materials, and more.

"We know that when young people have basic access to technology in this increasingly digital world, they have a greater chance of success in school and beyond," said Robert Johnson, vice president of stores for BSRO. "Our communities across Northeast Ohio,

and Akron in particular, are very special to Bridgestone, and we are grateful for the contributions of our retail customers and teammates that will allow the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio to continue to deliver critical resources to area kids.”

The digital divide has been an emerging issue for youth across Northeast Ohio and was further magnified in the past year by the pandemic. Following the most recent Census Cleveland, the city now has the worst wireline connection rate in the country among large cities with 31 percent of its households lacking broadband access and 46 percent not having any wired connections. With more Clubs in the region reopening this fall, the donation will help Club kids keep pace academically by increasing and improving digital access at more locations.

“We are so grateful to Bridgestone Retail Operations and the *Driving Great Futures* program for helping provide our kids with critical technology resources, including better access to the internet,” said Jeff Scott, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio. “Bridgestone’s generosity is a difference-maker. One of our pillars is academic success, and this gift will level the learning field for so many young people.”

The donation highlights a long tradition of charitable giving in Northeast Ohio through the sport of golf. Bridgestone has helped extend this legacy as title sponsor of an event at Firestone Country Club since 2006, and professional golf activities overall have contributed more than \$30 million to the local community since 1982.

Last year, Bridgestone raised \$3.6 million for Boys & Girls Clubs of America that helped provide technology, transportation, and out-of-school support for Club kids and teens amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2015, Bridgestone has contributed a total of \$15.3 million to Boys & Girls Clubs of America. *Driving Great Futures* is part of the Bridgestone *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 Boys & Girls Clubs of America:

For 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. More than 4,700 Clubs serve over 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. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (bgcneo.org) provides safe, fun places for kids ages 6-18 to go after school, with a focus on academic success, healthy lifestyles and character development. BGCNEO was formed in 2019 by the merger of Clubs in Cleveland, Akron, Lorain County and Erie County. It is one of the 10 largest Boys & Girls Club units in the nation.

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