

[https://www.citysuntimes.com/news/community/boys-girls-clubs-of-the-valley-celebrate-45k-donation-opening-of-new-learning-space/article\\_d604d4c6-b259-11ef-b226-bfb32c61d710.html](https://www.citysuntimes.com/news/community/boys-girls-clubs-of-the-valley-celebrate-45k-donation-opening-of-new-learning-space/article_d604d4c6-b259-11ef-b226-bfb32c61d710.html)

**LOCAL NEWS / COMMUNITY**

# Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley celebrate \$45K donation, opening of new learning space

CITYSunTimes

Published on Dec 4, 2024



The grand opening celebration of the renovated learning space was made possible by a \$45,000 grant from the Panda Cares Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Panda Express, and boasted a check presentation and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Photo provided.

The new Center of Hope at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley opened on Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Ed Robson Family Branch in north Phoenix.

The grand opening celebration of the renovated learning space was made possible by a \$45,000 grant from the Panda Cares Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Panda Express, and boasted a check presentation and ribbon cutting ceremony.

More than 200 local youth and staff explored their new Center of Hope, enjoyed dishes from Panda Express, and participated in activities such as Panda Bingo and Make a Panda Mask with craft supplies. Panda Express employee volunteers, joined by Panda Express mascot, served meals, passed out donated books and swag, and lead youth in interactive activities and games.

Elements of the new Center of Hope include a separate computer lab, a wall mural, smart TVs, new furniture like chairs, soft seating, flex seating and tables. Other physical upgrades include a fresh coat of paint, carpet, acoustic panels, recalibrated HVAC systems, fire sprinklers and more components to bring the room together.

The Panda Cares Center of Hope space is specially designed within the Robson Branch to provide a safe and nurturing environment for youth to excel academically. The center will encourage club members to dream big, express themselves and pursue their educational passions. By implementing Project Learn, an evidence-based educational strategy, the Center of Hope will support youth-centered learning, character building, academic success and college readiness through activities like homework help and tutoring and high-yield learning activities.

Written By

**CITYSunTimes**

[news@CITYSunTimes.com](mailto:news@CITYSunTimes.com) |