

PARTIES

JOIN THE CLUB

While the number of in-person attendees was kept to a minimum, there was no shortage of enthusiasm at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's 2022 Youth of the Year ceremony. The January 26 celebration, livestreamed from East Palo Alto's state-of-the-art EPACENTER theater, culminated in the announcement of **Xitlali Curincita** as the Peninsula chapter's representative at a forthcoming statewide Boys & Girls Clubs event. The Cañada College student also represents a new, diverse generation of future leaders for the 21st century.

The heartfelt fete — which raised a whopping \$3.1 million for club programs — was emceed by **Dez Frazier**, the 2018 Youth of the Year, and streamed in English and Spanish. The event kicked off with a spoken-word performance by the Poetically Correct Club Kids, held in BGCP's Redwood City clubhouse. And BGCP's co-CEO **Peter Fortenbaugh** poignantly shared his experience during his 20-year tenure working to inspire underserved youth to achieve their dreams and goals. (Read more about BGCP and its leadership in "Programmed for Success," page 54.)

This year's BGCP finalists — who, in addition to Curincita, included **Ian Motuliki**, **Kaeja Byrd** and **Maria Chapa Maldonado** — were vetted by an esteemed panel from the star-studded worlds of tech, philanthropy and sports: Golden State Warriors all-star swingman **Andre Iguodala**; GingerBread Capital founder and CEO **Linnea Roberts**; Western Digital EVP and CPO **Christine Bastian**; Zoom founder and CEO **Eric Yuan**; and Nike President and CEO **John Donahoe**.

And "superhero" partners, including 23andMe cofounder and CEO **Anne Wojcicki** with her sister, YouTube CEO **Susan Wojcicki**, pledged to match each \$25K donation to augment the organization's dynamic youth programming. "All of you are amazing role models," toasted Anne Wojcicki. "Your vision for the future, your tenacity, your ability to stick with challenges and make change happen — you are role models for us." **NHC**



Nominee Kaeja Byrd is overwhelmed by the honor.



Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula co-CEO Peter Fortenbaugh



Youth of the Year semifinalists Jessica Francisco and Gabriela Ake



Xitlali Curincita with fellow finalists Ian Motuliki, Maria Chapa Maldonado and Kaeja Byrd



BGCP 2022 Youth of the Year Representative Xitlali Curincita with Peter Fortenbaugh and Jenny Obiaya



Livestreamed celebration at EPACENTER