On November 9th, 2019 the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Georgia held its Teen Health Summit with more than 220 youth, community partners and volunteer’s attendance. The Youth Leadership Council, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Thomasville, planned an entire day of educational sessions centered on relationships, gang violence, leadership, teen pregnancy, and the importance parental Involvement. Part of the Teen Health Summit was a program called “Bridging the Gap Between Teens & Law Enforcement.” It could not have happened without the help of some awesome volunteers. Thank you to our facilitators- Tracy Howell, Alicia Parker & Chief Troy from DOCO SRO, Carl Washington, Michael Lewis, Cynthia Gardner, Doris Clark, Pam Gardner, Joe Thomas & Norman Billups. Law Enforcement panel members from DJJ - Lisa Owens, Asst. District Attorney Joseph McKinnon, Elder Jerry Payne, Thomasville Police Capt. Maurice Holmes, Thomas Co. Sheriff Dept. Minto & Gwen Tyler. Thank you Climmie Mosely for that tasty lunch. We had more than 220 teens in attendance. They were not afraid to open up and ask questions that would help build their relationship with law enforcement.

We have played a significant role in helping the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) spread the message to youth in Thomas & Grady Counties about the negative life outcomes of becoming a parent too soon and the health risks of unprotected sexual activity. The program has impacted 1,824 beneficiaries providing 3,780 contact hours of encouragement. The YLC’s efforts & our Club, the Boys & Girls Clubs & other community partners, a total of 526 teens between the ages of 13-18 received direct teen pregnancy prevention training from 08/19 through 03/20; an estimated 1000 teens have been indirectly impacted through the advocacy efforts of the YLC & direct training provided in the school system and at the B & G Clubs; over 200 adults in our community have increased their awareness; over 100 Rotarians are active supporters of the project. The work of the YLC and so many others involved in this project continue to make a difference in the lives of young people.