Jr. Youth of the Year, Chloe Dutcher
Dear Friends,

On January 2, 2002, I began my tenure as Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. It was quite a transition from the Chicago area, but I knew then as I do now that I was coming to a great Boys & Girls Club city. The Club was ready to expand and grow and that’s what we did. Some highlights include:

Opening the Stalnaker Unit in 2003
Opening the new Henderson Unit in 2007
Completing the renovation of the Musgrave Unit in 2007
Opening the Sertoma Unit in 2015 at Sherwood Elementary School
Introduction of the Mental Health Program in 2013
Completing the “Living the Dream, Making it Green” project at the Musgrave Unit
Serving thousands of kids each and every year


I want to recognize our staff over these 17 years, especially Randy Carpenter and Chris Whitehead for their fantastic efforts. Our staff enjoys working with our kids and making a positive difference in their lives.

You, our donors and volunteers, have been a blessing to the organization. Thanks to you, our budget has tripled in the last 17 years. You’ve supported our capital campaigns, special events, endowment and operations gifts.

So I’m asked every day, “What are you going to do once you retire?” So here goes: volunteer at our new music studio at the Henderson Unit, continue involvement with Sertoma, participate in the PIE group and Alumni Association, travel, play music, tennis, golf, and bike. In the fall, I plan to attend Missouri State as part of the MSU 62 program.

So, as I turn the reins over to our incoming dynamic leader, Brandy Harris, on April 1, I would encourage you to continue to provide “Great Futures” for our kids by supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield.

Thank you so much!
Pat Gartland, Executive Director

JOIN THE MONTHLY GIVING CLUB
In honor of serving kids since 1938, we are looking for 80 donors to give $19.38 a month to commemorate our 80 years of changing lives!
Visit bgclubspringfield.org/recurring-donations to sign up!
The CHALLENGE is a publication of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Its purpose is to share the activities and services provided for Springfield area youth who turn to the Boys & Girls Clubs for assistance. Some of the programs offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield are underwritten by State of Missouri Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) and Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credits.

Make your donation online by visiting www.bgclubspringfield.org and clicking on DONATE.
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield has appointed Brandy Harris as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 1, 2019.

Harris began her professional career as a high school teacher at her alma mater, Hillcrest High School in Springfield. Harris has been involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs since 2011, first in Lawrence, Kansas before she moved back to the Springfield area and assumed a role as Program Director in 2013. She received her B.A. in Speech Communication from Drury University in 2008, and her Masters in Early Childhood Education from MSU in 2015. Her experience and successful leadership as the Director of Programs and Sertoma Unit Director has led to national recognition within the movement in the form of the Boys & Girls Club of America’s Honor Award for Best Overall Program amongst several other national awards.

Harris has a vision for the future of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, and we cannot wait to see where she leads this great organization!

“I am incredibly excited about the future of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. I have made it my life’s mission to serve kids and the best way for me to connect my passion and my purpose is through the Club. I am so grateful for the outpouring of support I have received during this transition process and I will work tirelessly to adequately represent and serve the stakeholders at the core of our mission.”

After their lifetime, the proceeds pass tax free to provide much needed funds to help children of future generations.

Sometimes it is difficult to know just how much you will need in your retirement years to maintain your lifestyle. So, it can be more comfortable to donate by making a specific gift or “bequest” through your estate plan. This is typically done through a trust or will consultation with your attorney. The amount you leave goes to the organization, again tax free.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield established a trust many years ago to hold and invest funds received from our generous donors through their planned gifts. It has grown tremendously throughout the years and its annual distributions provide a significant portion of our annual budgetary needs. Using wise strategies to make gifts throughout your lifetime and through your estate ensures that our kids continue to have Great Futures in Springfield through the Boys & Girls Clubs just like they have for more than 80 years.
Welcome to our New Board Member

Erik Frederick, Mercy

One element of our vision at Mercy is to be a trusted partner in the community. Building trust occurs with relationships like the one we have with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Personally, I am also passionate about helping youth who have not been provided the same opportunities so many of us enjoy. Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to fill both professional and personal goals to serve our community.

THE HE BROTHERS’ GREAT FUTURES

Meet Jimmy and Luke He

Past Club kids Jimmy and Luke He are current Boys & Girls Club college scholarship students. They both received 4.0 grade point averages on their baccalaureate degrees from UMKC and now attending UMKC with the same excellent grades. Luke is in his final year, year six and Jimmy in year three of this program. Luke will be graduating in May and has applied to be in the Emergency Medicine residency program. Along with their classes, they both work bi-weekly with patients at Truman Medical Center, where they serve Kansas City’s underserved populations. In addition to this, Luke also works for the National Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association as the Region 6 Director where he helps manage twelve other medical schools in the Midwest with providing care to minorities.

We are very proud of the He brothers!

BUMP, SET, SPIKE!

Club members showed a strong interest in having a volleyball league here at the Clubs. Now, every Tuesday night at the Musgrave Unit, you will find our volleyball league in full swing! We have over 45 4th-8th grade female members, including two teams from the Musgrave Unit and one from the Henderson, Stalnaker, and Sertoma Units. When coaches asked members what they like most about volleyball, Club member Jestiny W. said, “I love volleyball because I get to make stronger connections with other players and I also get to show my talent when I am on the court”. Some of our members have never played volleyball before and for them to learn how to play here at the Clubs is awesome. The games are exciting and fun and we love to see the impact sports have on these girls’ lives!
JR. YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Meet Chloe Dutcher

We are pleased to announce that Stalnaker Unit member, Chloe Dutcher, has been named Jr. Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Chloe has been a member of the Stalnaker Unit for 8 years. She is actively involved in Torch Club, Gardening Club, Fashion Club, and much more. When not at the Club, she helps her church and participates in archery and choir at school. When asked what the Club means to her, Chloe said, “It helped teach me patience and setting boundaries. When I felt alone, the Staff and my friends were there for me.” Chloe will represent the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield in the first ever, State-Wide Jr. Youth of the Year competition to be held April 9 and 10 in Jefferson City.

The Stalnaker Unit and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield are very proud to have members like Chloe!
On February 5, we had over 350 guests join us at our 80th Anniversary Celebration. We reminisced on the last 80 years, presented deserving people with awards, enjoyed talent from our Club members, and announced our 2019 Youth of the Year. Thank you to all those who have made an impact on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield throughout the years. Here’s to 80 more years of creating great futures!

80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD

Make your donation online by visiting www.bgclubspringfield.org and clicking on DONATE

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Gifts by Check:
Please mail to: Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield
1410 N. Fremont Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802

Please consider leaving Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield in your estate plan. For more information contact Chris Whitehead at 417.862.9249 or cwhitehead@bgclubspringfield.org
If you are getting duplicates of our newsletter, *The Challenge*, please let us know. Call 862-9249 x115 or email sjackson@bgclubspringfield.org.

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