HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SPRINGFIELD
Happy Holidays to all of you and thank you for your outstanding support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. I want to tell you about an exciting new project here at the Clubs. In 2019, we will open our first ever recording studio at our Henderson Unit located in Grant Beach Park. In this studio, kids will have the opportunity to explore their creativity in music and we will be able to introduce basic recording skills as well. Many thanks to the Sertoma Chili Cook-Off for providing support for this project and especially a big thanks to Palen Music for their donation of recording equipment. Also, Sapp Architects has developed a cool design for the studio, making it both fun and appealing to our Club members (see photo below). However, we will need your support.

- We need volunteers who have expertise in recording music to work with our kids.
- We need funds to support our operation expenses so that we have a consistent program.
- We need musicians to stop by from time to time to share their knowledge of music.

So to kick this off we want to show off some of our talent. If you go to the home page of bgclubspringfield.org and click on local talent, you will get to hear some of our musicians. You will listen to Club member, singer/guitarist Avery Mann, Chauncy Jones, Tyrone Leath, our guitar teacher virtuoso John Strickler and also yours truly playing with John Strickler and volunteer Jordan Pierce and the Gartland Brothers. As we develop talent we will put the songs on our website.

Will we develop the next Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Paul McCartney or Marvin Gaye? Perhaps, but our ultimate goal is to provide our kids with opportunities that they never have had and to develop a lifelong appreciation for music which will challenge them mentally and develop skills that they can appreciate over their whole life. Providing hope and opportunity - that’s what we do at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season!

Pat Gartland
Executive Director
4. Thanksgiving Dinners
   Members and their families share a Thanksgiving meal at the Clubs

5. YEO Success Story
   How YEO prepared Jalen for his first job

6. The Importance of Friendship
   Henderson Unit teens visit fellow teen at St. Judes Hospital

7. Non-Celebrity Waiter Dinner
   Club supporters serve their friends at Touch Restaurant to raise money for the Clubs

**MIDWEST REGION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**

Our very own Executive Director, Pat Gartland, won Midwest Region Executive Director of the Year at the Midwest Leadership Conference in Indianapolis on October 11. Pat received this award for his hard work and dedication toward making the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield a great place for kids. He’s been called a master planner and delegator, continually keeping multiple projects moving forward simultaneously. Pat demonstrates great generosity as a leader in sharing Club recognitions with the staff, volunteers and board. Congratulations Pat from all of your BGCS family!

**SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD**

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.bgclubsspringfield.org and clicking on **DONATE**
THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Each year, Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield hosts an annual Thanksgiving dinner for more than 500 Club members and their families to celebrate the season. This year, each Club hosted their dinner on November 16th. Thanks to the generosity of Lambert’s Cafe, families are able to enjoy a delicious dinner with famous rolls. There is also an opportunity for members to showcase their artwork, make crafts, play games, and more. Without this tradition, many of the Club members’ families would not be able to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for their loved ones. This is an event that Club members and their families look forward to each year.

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE: HOW BASKETBALL PREPARED ME TO RUN A BUSINESS

By Joseph J. Piatchek

I recently gave a short dinner presentation to a small group of key donors and staff for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. I was invited to speak about my experiences growing up and playing basketball at the Boys Club.

“It is difficult to think of my life without basketball, and I am not sure where I would be if I had not learned the many lessons that the game has bestowed upon me. I am very thankful for the Boys & Girls Clubs for giving me a place to play when I was growing up, and I appreciate the long-term, positive impact that both basketball and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield have made on my life. The impact continues to this day with every game I play and every case I take”.

-Joseph Piatchek

For the rest of the story, visit www.bgclubspringfield.org/stories/joepiatchek
YEO SUCCESS STORY

Meet Club Member, Jalen Anders

The Youth Enhancement Opportunities (YEO) Program is a nine-week introduction to the world of work for Boys & Girls Club members between the ages of 14-18. The primary goal is to provide teens with the knowledge and skills needed to secure and maintain an entry-level position. There is an application process usually held in September and January. The first three weeks of the program consist of orientation and training sessions, which are completed at the Boys & Girls Clubs. The education/training component is designed to provide teens with the essential knowledge and soft skills necessary to perform effectively and efficiently in a work environment. All teens must complete the education/training sessions before they are placed in a job. Once placed, teens will work at the assigned business or organization for six weeks. The teens are paid minimum wage through the Boys & Girls Clubs while gaining valuable work experience.

An excellent example of the YEO mission and a true success story is Musgrave Unit-Boys & Girls Club member, Jalen Anders. During the YEO cycle in Spring 2018, Jalen worked at the Dairy Queen on College St. While working at DQ, Jalen learned a great deal about providing good customer service, as well as learning how to prepare all the tasty DQ menu items from blizzards to burgers. Additionally, he gained knowledge about the restaurant equipment, supplies, and teamwork. Jalen said, “My favorite thing about working at Dairy Queen is learning lots of new things, while earning money. I’m also learning how to save and manage my money”. Jalen’s positive attitude, willingness to learn, and strong work ethic was recognized and appreciated by the DQ managers and owners.

In fact, Jalen did such a great job during his six-week YEO work experience, he was offered an opportunity to be hired as a permanent/part-time employee as soon as he turned 16. Today, Jalen continues to work at DQ after school and on the weekends. He says he’s still learning and enjoying working at DQ. He’s also focusing on saving money to buy a car. The owner of DQ, Kevin Hite said, “Jalen is a good worker and an outstanding young man. I see the positive growth in him and I’m glad he’s a member of our DQ team.” Congratulations to Jalen for doing such a good job and best wishes for continued success. Additionally, thanks to the Hite Family and Dairy Queen for being a valuable YEO business partner.

If you have any questions or would like to receive more information regarding the YEO Program, please contact the YEO Program Coordinator, Charlotte Hardin by calling/texting 417-766-2893 or contact the Teen Director at any of our BGCS Units.

Welcome to our New Board Member

“IT’s kind of hard to put it into words. I’ve got three girls of my own you know, Kennedy is 20 years old, Brooklyn is 11, and Bailee is 9. I feel like my family has lived very blessed lives, and I’m so grateful for having good parents of my own and for having a supportive and loving wife and children. I can’t imagine them not having every opportunity for happiness, and I suppose I superimpose those same feelings on other children when I see them. I can’t imagine any child not having great parents, a nice house, new clothes, good food, great schools, and caring friends. The thought that they would ever have to feel scared or insecure for one minute just eats me up. That’s why I thought Heart of the Ozark SERTOMA was such a great organization, and I suppose why I feel the transition to the Board at the Boys & Girls Club is a very natural and good fit for me”.

Lance O’Neill
Financial Advisor at Heim, Young & Associates
THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

On October 15th, 2018, the Henderson Unit teens had a special opportunity to visit a fellow teen at St. Jude in Memphis, TN. Megan was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia in September 2018. Megan has been a Club member of the Boys & Girls Clubs since January 2010.

When Megan was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia, the whole Henderson Unit felt distraught. They spent a lot of time making cards and sending them to Megan. While sending cards is important and special, the Henderson Unit wanted to be there for Megan in the best way possible. School was out on October 15th and the perfect opportunity to visit Megan at St. Jude.

The teens left at 5:00 am in order to spend as much time as possible with Megan. They had a cooler packed full of food thanks to the Head Cook, Ms. Regina. When they arrived, Megan was ecstatic to see her fellow teens. They spent the day catching up, getting ice cream and burgers and playing board games.

“Overall it was such a good experience for all of us. I know how much it meant to Megan that we visited her and I’m glad we got the opportunity to do so. It was really heartwarming to see the teens hangout, laugh and really learn how to be there for each other when it mattered most. I think that day they all learned the importance of showing up and being there for people when it matters”.

-Sarah Hassan, Henderson Unit Teen Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Invest to Invest Kick-Off**
Invest to Invest provides a friendly competitive venue to raise funds by playing the stock market. The Invest to Invest kick-off luncheon will be held on January 22nd. Contact Chris Whitehead (cwhitehead@bgclubsspringfield.org) for more information.

**80th Anniversary Celebration**
Join us as we celebrate our 80 years of changing lives, recognize our Board Members, sponsors and donors from 2018, induct the new Hall of Fame members, and most importantly – announce the 2019 Youth of the Year. Contact Savannah Jackson (sjackson@bgclubsspringfield.org) for more information.

**Chili Cook-Off**
Stop by the Expo Center to try out delicious chili recipes from more than 70 booths, while supporting the Clubs. There will also be live music, a Texas Hold’Em Tournament, and a silent auction. For more information visit sertomachilicookoff.com.
This year’s Non-Celebrity Waiter Dinner was a night of fun as Club supporters put on their aprons and served friends to earn tips for the Clubs. A special thank you goes to Mike Jalili for donating Touch Restaurant for the night, Springfield Grocer Co. for donating the food, Brown Derby for donating the wine, and Glacier for the whiskey tasting. The event continues to grow, this year raising $16,000 to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield.

Support the Programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield

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

Support your area of interest:

☐ The Arts  ☐ Sports, Fitness & Recreation  ☐ Health & Life Skills
☐ General Operations  ☐ Education & Career Development  ☐ Character & Leadership Development

Credit Card Payments (one time or recurring):

Please charge $_______________ per month to:

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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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