The CHALLENGE
OCTOBER 2018

BGCS TURNS 80 YEARS OLD
Changing lives for 80 years!

bgclubspringfield.org
BOARD PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The holiday season is upon us and it is fair to say we have skipped the fall weather and decided to jump straight into the brisk cold. I love this time of year as it gives us the opportunity to enjoy our friends and family and reflect on all that has happened over the year. On the personal side, my wife and I welcomed our new baby girl into the world in May of this year. We look forward to making some new memories as we give thanks over some turkey, play in the snow (hoping for a white Christmas) and meet up with Ole’ Saint Nick! I encourage you to make some new memories of your own and enjoy your family and friends to the fullest this holiday season.

We have also had an eventful year here at the Boys & Girls Clubs and continue to stay busy furthering our mission and commitment to at-risk youth in need. So far this year, our Clubs have served 2,500 kids.

The Club just wrapped up our Oktoberfest Bike for Kids fundraiser in late September. 125 riders enjoyed a scenic 11, 20, or 32 mile ride through the Ozarks to help raise over $23,000 for our Sertoma Unit. Many riders even pulled out the lederhosen for the ride to show their German spirit! It was a great event and we appreciate all of our riders and sponsors for their support.

I want to give a special thanks to all the people and organizations that make the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield a great place for kids. It all starts with the dedication of the staff at the Clubs and their willingness to invest their time and hearts into the kids in helping them to reach their full potential. The Club also has been blessed by strong community support from those who are willing to invest their precious time and resources to make a difference. We can’t do it without all of your support!

For those looking for an opportunity to invest your time in the Boys & Girls Clubs, I encourage you to reach out and become a mentor for one of our Club kids. Our Mission to Mentor program is geared towards providing a fun, positive experience for both the mentor and mentee. You will find it very rewarding as you make a difference in the life of a young person in need.

For those looking for an opportunity to invest your precious resources, we still have 50% Missouri NAP Tax Credits that go to support youth programs.

I am grateful to be a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield and I hope that all of you find something to be grateful for this holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends and make sure you bundle up, cook up a large bowl of warm chili and enjoy the rest of what 2018 has to offer.

Sincerely,

Chris Myers
Board President

FEATURES

4. Lili’s Great Future
   Meet Club member Liliannah Shaffer

5. Summer Program
   Highlights of the BGC summer programming

6. Kids Across America Camp
   Wingapalooza funds send 64 children to summer camp

7. Oktoberfest Bike for Kids
   4th Annual Oktoberfest raised more than $23,000 for our Sertoma Unit

8. McGregor in the Morning
   McGregor Elementary offering new before school program

9. Day for Kids
   The Clubs host an event to celebrate children

10. Program of the Month
    Innovative BGC programs are recognized for their positive influence in children’s lives
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield will be turning 80 years old on November 4, 2018. In 1938 Mrs. Jennie Lincoln opened the Boys Club after her husband related the need of such an organization to help youngsters with special problems and then in 1991, the Boys Club and the Girls Club merged together to create the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. The Club started out as a small program, catering to 25 to 50 boys. Now, 80 years later, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield serve more than 2,500 children, in our four facilities, providing quality programs and services that enhance their lives and shape their futures. We are having an 80th Anniversary Celebration on February 5, 2018 to celebrate our accomplishments of changing lives for 80 years!

If you would like to attend, contact Debbie Herren at (417) 862.9249 or dherren@bgclubspringfield.org

JOIN THE MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

$19.38

In honor of serving kids since 1938, we are looking for 80 new donors to give $19.38 a month to commemorate our 80 years of changing lives!

Visit bgclubspringfield.org/recurring-donations to sign up!

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.bgclubspringfield.org and clicking on DONATE.
“If I could meet anyone in the world, I would meet the Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield”.

If I could do anything in the world, I would want to be a Boys & Girls Club staff”.

These are answers that Liliannah Shaffer, a nine-year old Club member (and mentee), recently gave while at a Club mentoring event. When asked why she wanted to meet Mr. Pat, she said, “so I could meet the leader person in charge of hiring me”. When asked if she wanted to have his job someday, she said, “no...well... YES!” Lili shares that, “I want to become a staff because I want the kindness to spread among the years!”

Lili and her friend Annabelle (pictured right) say that their favorite things about being at the Clubs are that the staff are really nice and they get to play, learn and eat quesadillas for dinner (followed by a thumbs up and a smile!) Lili has two brothers, Willy and Roe who also attend the Clubs.

If you are interested in being a mentor, contact Debbie Herren at dherren@bgclubspringfield.org or (417) 862-9249.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield and Henderson Unit Membership Coordinator, Brianne Hawkins, were featured in the newest issue of Missouri State University’s Leaders in Community Service (LCS) magazine. LCS is a group that promotes civic responsibilities through community service that addresses priorities of the local community in the areas of education, the environment, public safety, the economy or human needs. Brianne started working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield as her community service group. Brianne shared that her favorite part about working at the Club is the kids, “it’s never a boring day and I have a lot of love to give to them!” BGCS staff Yolanda Salas and Sarah Hassan are also LCS members who have impacted the Clubs tremendously.
Summer Program

Highlights of how the Club helped fight summer brain drain and kept kids active and engaged during the summer months.

**Science Fair**

Members had the opportunity to conduct their own science experiment and enter in a Club-wide science fair. Experiments ranged from what type of glue would make the best slime to finding what candy creates the sturdiest structure. Our young scientists learned to follow the scientific method to create a hypothesis and find accurate results. Pictured above is the winning Stalnaker Unit who turned solid to gas with dry ice.

**SMART Girls**

SMART Girls is a small-group health, fitness, prevention/education and self-esteem enhancement program designed to meet the developmental needs of girls. Through dynamic sessions, highly participatory activities, field trips and mentoring opportunities with adult women, Club girls explore their own and societal attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, getting good health care and developing positive relationships with peers and adults. As a part of the program, members are challenged to think critically. At the Sertoma Unit, SMART Girls wanted to raise money for a bonding field trip. They came up with their own marketing plan and budget and sold slime to members!

**Field Trips**

The most important part of our summer programming is making sure our kids have fun! Our summer field trips provide many opportunities that many of the youth we serve most likely wouldn’t get to experience without the Club. This summer members got to go fishing, watch the Springfield Lasers, visit the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and much more!

**Talent Show**

The Clubs hosted their Annual Talent Show this summer. Each Unit hosted their own talent show and the top three performers made it to the finals at the Sertoma Unit. Congratulations to our winners! 1st place: Kennedy P., Sertoma Unit. 2nd place: Hayden S., Musgrave Unit. 3rd place: Colton B., Sertoma Unit.
Kids Across America Camp

Boys & Girls Club youth attend summer camp

On July 15th-21st, Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield sent 64 youth ages 9-18 to Kids Across America (KAA) Camp. KAA camp is a Christian sports camp that offers a fun outdoor experience for urban and at-risk youth. Our members had the opportunity to build teamwork skills through an obstacle course, swimming in the lake, canoeing, ziplining, archery, playing a variety of games, and more.

Each attending child was able to have this wonderful experience free of any charge thanks to Sertoma Club of Springfield and Youngblood Auto Group. Each year Sertoma Club of Springfield and Youngblood Auto Group host Wingapalooza, a wing tasting competition, to raise funds for Springfield’s children charities. A portion of the funds raised are used to send members to KAA camp. This year Wingapalooza will be held on November 3rd at the Expo Center, so be sure to stop by to taste delicious wings from Springfield’s best restaurants and hear great music while supporting local youth. Visit www.winga.net to purchase tickets or for more information.

“When I came back from KAA, I had a closer relationship with God as well as other Boys & Girls Club members. I learned that I could actually be myself. I learned what was right and what was wrong. I was saved and I never knew I was so loved. I never would have had the opportunity to go to KAA if it wasn’t for the Clubs. KAA has helped me become the best person I can be”.

-Evan K., Henderson Unit Member

Welcome to our New Board Members

Monica Fintel
CoxHealth

Mike Hoppman
Mutual of Omaha

Dave Puckett
Wood & Huston Bank
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-Evan K., Henderson Unit Member

OKTOBERFEST BIKE FOR KIDS

Bikes, Lederhosen, Brats, and more! On Saturday, September 29th, O’Reilly Hospitality and Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield hosted the 4th Annual Oktoberfest Bike for Kids to benefit our newest Club, the Sertoma Unit. Riders were encouraged to dress up in their finest German attire to ride the 11, 20, or 32 mile route. After the ride, participants were invited back to the Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma Oktoberfest event to enjoy a German themed lunch, listen to Oompah music and show off their costumes. 125 riders participated and the event raised more than $23,000 to support the Sertoma Unit. Thank you to our sponsors, our incredible committee led by Brian Inman from Double Tree, and to everyone who helped make this event a success!
Ballerina buns and lots of fun! Our Club members are getting the opportunity to take ballet lessons, again this year, at Credo Dance Academy thanks to the generosity of Mr. Lindsey Robinson, President and Founder of the Messiah Project, a Christian Arts Organization. The program is structured by age and skill in order to provide individualized dance instruction emphasizing technique, artistic expression, and the personal character of each student. The class focuses on basic ballet technique, proper alignment, French terminology and musicality. A big thank you to Mr. Lindsey Robinson for this amazing opportunity!

Starting the 2018-19 school year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield has begun offering a before school program at McGregor Elementary, known as McGregor in the Morning. The program runs every school day from 6:30 am until the morning bell rings. The program is aimed to provide McGregor students who are in need of a place to go before school with a safe, positive, and fun place to go and hang out with their friends instead of waiting outside on the street. Club members participate in fun activities such as arts and crafts projects, brain games, relay races, and much more!

This before school program has been a blessing for many families. We have heard from parents about how joyful they are to have this program available for their children. They don’t have to worry about leaving their child(ren) outside unattended while they go to work. This program is an absolute lifesaver.

McGregor in the Morning is underwritten by a Community Development Block Grant in partnership with the City of Springfield.
Day for Kids is a day set aside each year to highlight the needs of kids in our community and celebrate children by spending meaningful time with them. On September 15th, Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield hosted a free, public event at the Stalnaker Unit. Children and their families participated in fun activities: carnival style games, inflatables, balloon art, dancing, free food, and more! Even superheroes, such as Superman and Wonder Woman, made a special appearance and posed for pictures with the kids.

Partners in Education also hosted their Annual Day for Kids Walk earlier that morning. Proceeds from the walk are used to provide college scholarships, ACT and SAT testing fees, dual credit costs, and other educational scholarships for Club members in need. To view more pictures of the event visit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield’s Facebook page.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Non-Celebrity Waiter Dinner**

Grab an apron and a serving tray and invite your friends to raise funds to support the Clubs! This year’s event will be held on Nov. 11th at Touch Restaurant & Oyster Bar. For more information or if you are interested in being a waiter, contact Chris Whitehead at 417.862.9249 or cwhitehead@bgclubspringfield.org.
JUNE

Exercise Monopoly from the Musgrave Unit is the Program of the Month for June. Exercise Monopoly is a fun and unique opportunity to engage members in exercise and learning. The mission of this program is to help show members that there are creative ways to exercise and fun ways to learn while in the gym.

JULY

June’s Program of the Month is Service Superheroes from the Sertoma Unit. The mission of this program is to encourage members to be more involved and aware of the needs of their community and become civically engaged through art. For example, members used old blankets to make their own dog toys for the local humane society.

AUGUST

Comic Book Club from the Stalnaker Unit is the Program of the Month for August. Comic Book Club allows members to explore alternative reading formats as well as practical applications for their art and storytelling abilities.

SEPTEMBER

September’s Program of the Month is DIY Creators from the Sertoma Unit. In DIY Creators, members learn new ways to show off their creativity. For example, members make their own mood posters and talk about how emotion management is important.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROFESSIONALS OF THE MONTH

June
Karla Pyle
Musgrave Unit

July
Yolanda Salas
Henderson Unit

August
Danny English
Musgrave Unit

September
Lainie Vicat
Henderson Unit
Leaving a Legacy through Planned Giving

Story by Andy Peebles, Great Futures Committee Member

Every year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield provide programs that guide and direct youth from all backgrounds, particularly those from at-risk environments. Through social, physical, and educational activities, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield teach youth the values of life, strengthen their self-esteem, and make them better citizens of the community. The Club’s motto says it all: “Great Futures Start Here”.

With that admirable mission in mind, it is no surprise that many individuals are motivated to support the organization financially in their estate plan. I have personally had the tremendous opportunity over the last three years to serve on the Boys & Girls Club’s Great Futures Committee, which focuses on the promotion of planned giving within the organization. “Planned giving” is the process of arranging a contribution which will be made at some point in the future.

There are many types of planned giving techniques which can be used to make a meaningful impact on a charitable organization such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. One way is to provide directly in your will or trust that a certain dollar amount of your estate be distributed to the charity upon your death. You might also decide to name the charity as the primary beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. More complicated giving techniques involve the use of charitable trusts, which provide the creator of the trust or some other named beneficiary with a steady income stream for a certain period of time, while allowing the charity to benefit from the trust as well. All of these giving techniques come with the added bonus of receiving beneficial tax treatment when tax season rolls around.

No matter which planned giving technique you decide to use, please know that your gift directly impacts the children that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield are serving and assists them in becoming successful students, citizens, and leaders. If you have any questions about how to donate to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, please contact Chris Whitehead at (417) 862-9249 or cwhitehead@bgclubspringfield.org.

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:

Or charge a one-time gift of $______________ to my:

Monthly charge date: 5th  20th

Card  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  Exp. Date __/__

CSC (3-digit on back of MC, Visa, and Discover or 4-digit on front of AmEx)  __  __  

Signature __________________________________________ Date ________________

Gifts by Check:  Please mail to:  Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield

1410 N. Fremont Avenue, Springfield, MO  65802

Please consider the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield in your will or estate plans. For more information on how to share your legacy contact Chris Whitehead at 417.862.9249.
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