JUNE 2018

National Awards
Youth of the Year
Hot fun in the summertime!

Do you remember those days when you were a kid and couldn't wait for summertime? Summer 2018 has arrived here at the Boys & Girls Clubs and we have some great programs planned. Baseball, swimming, camping, canoeing and field trips galore are just some of the many activities we have scheduled for Club members this summer.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield's 2018 Summer Program began on May 21 at the Henderson, Musgrave and Stalnaker Units, and on June 4 at the Sertoma Unit. The summer hours are 7:00 am - 5:45 pm, and the summer fun continues through August 14, the day before school starts again.

This summer's theme is "A Place to Become... For 80 Years" as we celebrate the Club's history. Besides the action packed activities at the Club, youth will have the opportunity to attend Kids Across America camp July 15th-21st. Our teens will once again volunteer at the 2018 Price Cutter Charity Championship July 26th-29th. Related to this event are a Kids' Fun Day on June 29th at Highland Springs Country Club, and a junior golf outing at Oscar Blom Golf Course on July 11th. Our teen members in Keystone Club will be going to Georgia in June for the National Keystone Conference.

The Boys & Girls Clubs continue its partnership this summer with Springfield Public Schools, as we transport Club members to and from 10 summer Explore! Sites. New this summer is the ability for our Club members to participate in the Explore! Summer School program online by using SPS issued Chromebooks at each BGCS site.

Summer field trips include exploring the Titanic in Branson, enjoying festivities at Incredible Pizza, playing laser tag, going roller skating, and swimming at Grant Beach Park. The teens have already planned college tours at the University of Arkansas and the University of Central Missouri. Club members will also enjoy a visit this summer to a Springfield Cardinals baseball game and to a Springfield Lasers tennis match.

The Summer 2018 program is a "fun-cational" experience as we focus on healthy lifestyles, good character & citizenship, and academic success. It's not too late to sign your kids up today! For our wonderful donors, stop by and see for yourself all the awesome fun we have here at the Clubs. Feel free to call me at (417) 862-9249 to set up a tour. Hope you have a great summer!

Best regards,

Pat Gartland
Executive Director
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. Also, keep an eye out for our child sponsor letter! Give the gift of a GREAT FUTURE this summer.

Make your donation online by visiting www.bgclubspringfield.org and clicking on DONATE.
On Friday, May 11th, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield held the 11th Annual Play FORE! the Kids Golf Tournament at Twin Oaks Country Club. The day was filled with golf and on course games, followed by a BBQ lunch featuring tasty ribs donated by Associated Wholesale Grocers and prepared by Jay Miller. We had 32 teams register to play and were able to raise $50,617 in total revenue to support the Clubs and youth served, making it our most profitable golf tournament to date. This year was dedicated to Kyle Moats, Missouri State University’s Director of Athletics. Thank you to our sponsors, participants, and our wonderful golf committee led by Lance O’Neill. A special thank you goes to Bobby Allison, Ace Sponsor; Heart of the Ozarks, Eagle Sponsor; and Jon & Kathy Risdal, Birdie Sponsor.

**Hole-In-One**

For 11 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield have hosted an annual Play FORE! the Kids Golf Tournament at Twin Oaks Country Club with the chance of winning $10,000 by getting a hole-in-one. This year, however, was the first time that anyone has ever accomplished a hole-in-one. Sam Dowell was the big winner. He got a hole-in-one on hole #2. As a kid, Sam went to the Boys Club in Rogers, Arkansas where he learned to wrestle and box. He learned the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect. Sam says that he was taught valuable life lessons that he still relies on today. A special thanks to PJC Insurance for sponsoring the hole, and congratulations Sam Dowell!
2nd Annual Boys & Girls Club Statewide Basketball Tournament

Story by Steve Wallace

On April 28th, we held our 2nd Annual Boys & Girls Club Statewide Basketball Tournament. All Boys & Girls Clubs in the state are invited to play in the tournament each year. This year, we had teams from Poplar Bluff, Ft. Leonard Wood and Kansas City's Eastern Jackson Club brought three teams and our local Clubs had two teams that participated. We had a 5th/6th grade division and a 7th/8th grade division. The games were played at the Musgrave and Stalnaker Units. The tournament was a three-game guarantee, so each team got to play three games with the top two teams playing in the Championship game. Both divisions were really competitive and the kids had a great time. For the 5th/6th grade division, Eastern Jackson (KC) and BGC of Springfield were in the Championship with Eastern Jackson (KC) taking home the trophy. Eastern Jackson (KC) and Ft. Leonard Wood were in the Championship game for the 7th/8th grade division. Eastern Jackson (KC), again, won the Championship game for the 7th/8th grade division. We hope that this event continues to be a success with more teams playing each year.

Youth of the Year

2018 Youth of the Year, Jaydun Sydnor

Congratulations to our 2018 Youth of the Year, Jaydun Sydnor. Jaydun has attended the Henderson Unit since he was five years old. Now 17, he has graduated from Hillcrest High School, where he played basketball and football while maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Jaydun will be attending Central Missouri University in the fall where he will pursue a business degree. At the Club, he was involved in Keystone and was a mentor to many younger members. Jaydun is a positive leader with many goals and is a true example of an extraordinary young man recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Graduation Celebration

Sponsored by Taco Bell

Story by Niki Kuriki

On April 25th, we had our annual Taco Bell Graduation Celebration at the Botanical Garden. Taco Bell sponsored this event by providing the food at the celebration. There were more than 20 sophomores, juniors, and seniors in attendance. Reggie Harris was the guest speaker and spoke about following your dreams. We recognized the six seniors that graduated with gifts and the underclassmen received a gift card. The members enjoyed the celebration by getting to take fun pictures in the photo booth, eating dessert and taking home a t-shirt as they celebrated their accomplishments.

Pictured: Sydney Clayton and Enka Weidman
On Tuesday, April 10th, Mercy Springfield presented the 22nd Annual Steak & Steak Dinner benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. This year we were very excited to have Kansas City Chiefs tight end, Travis Kelce, as the featured guest speaker. Kelce started off his day at the Stalnaker Unit where he met with Club kids from all four units, answered questions, and signed autographs. At the dinner later that evening, guests shared a delicious meal and time with family and friends while Kelce filled the room with energy and excitement. Special guests included former referee, Larry Nemmers and the voice of the Chiefs, Mitch Holtus. Steak & Steak is the largest fundraiser of the year to support the more than 2,250 youth that attend the Clubs after school and in the summer. This year we were able to raise over $221,000 to support local youth. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible!
At the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s 112th National Conference in San Diego, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield won two Honor Awards and one Merit Award. The first award was for Overall Program Excellence with organizational budget of $500,000 or more. This award was presented to the Club that has conducted the best overall program, as determined in each of BGCS’s five core program categories: character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness and recreation. This award was presented to BGCS for our commitment to quality programming, members' overall Club experience scores, and trained, passionate staff members.

The Club also won the Honor Award for Overall Program Excellence in Character and Leadership Development, which recognizes the program that most effectively empowers youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others’ cultural identities. This award was given to the Club for our LOTT of Love Club, which is designed to encourage members to appreciate themselves, understand others, and take personal leadership in confronting bias.

In addition, the Club won a Merit Award for our Power of Music Program. The Club received $10,000 from the MetLife Foundation for our achievements.
Youth Development Professional of the Month

April

Ms. V. is responsible for a very successful gym at the Henderson Unit. She has helped spearhead nationally recognized programs. She also helped run Club wide events and is always willing to lead.

Vericia Pearson

May

Mr. Nick goes out of his way to build unique relationships with members. He does this in a way that allows all members to find success in his area. Mr. Nick has made an incredible impact at the Sertoma Unit.

Nick Pfaff

Program of the Month

April

Gym Ratz from the Henderson Unit is lead by Ms. V. This program provides members the ability to gain valuable leadership skills, learn about fun ways to stay fit, and spend quality time with gym staff.

May

D & D (BGC Style) from the Musgrave Unit is lead by Mr. James. This program is an adapted version of the tabletop role playing game Dungeons & Dragons. It serves to teach members how to think critically about situations as well as lets them explore consequences of certain actions without real world repercussions.

Planned Giving

Story by John Piatchek

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield want to guarantee that our children have a bright future. For many years now, we have participated in Planned Giving to support the future of our children. Planned Giving is any type of future gift given as opposed to a current gift. A planned giving gift typically takes place at the death of a donor, where there is tax or estate planning involved with the gift being much larger than a current gift. The Great Futures Committee is responsible for promoting planned giving and growing our endowment. The committee is chaired by Gary Powell and our current members are Billy Hixon, Dean Young, John Piatchek, Andy Peebles, Pat Gartland, Chris Whitehead and Savannah Jackson. Our endowment fund is now over 11 million dollars with 4.5% interest being paid to the Club for current expenditures. The Great Futures Committee is also responsible for promoting membership to the Heritage Club, which involves anyone who has made a deferred gift of $10,000 or more. We have nearly 80 members and are one of the top Boys & Girls Clubs in the nation that participate in the Heritage Club.

“I have chosen to participate in Planned Giving and work with the Great Futures Committee because of the impact we can have on the Club many years after we are long gone. I will forever be indebted to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield for the passion the Club has helped build within my son for the game of basketball and the bond it has helped create between us. I will be leaving half of my estate to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield” - John Piatchek

Pictured: Joe Piatchek and John Piatchek
Touchdown Dinners

Story by Debbie Herren

Mike Jalili is a successful businessman with a great heart and passion for helping the youth in our community. Knowing that they can have a great future, no matter where they come from or what their particular challenges may be. Mike is determined to motivate our young people to accomplish their personal best in academics. He dreamed up the Touchdown Academic Program, with his challenge to over 1,000 Club members each year to provide a very special meal at Touch restaurant for each club member who improves grades to the program requirements and also works community service hours. The first of these events took place on April 13, 2015, with 90 wide-eyed young people receiving a red-carpet welcome with special drinks and appetizers, an elegant several course dinner, special recognition awards and parting gifts! In the past four years he has welcomed over 600 students to Touch for the event.

When we asked him about doing the event again, his response was, “You don’t have to ask me to do this ever. As long as I have restaurants, it’s an honor and my pleasure to make a difference if it’s only one child...”

Living the Dream, Making it Green

Story by Jeff Long

Boys & Girls Club members are now experiencing benefits of an energy renewal project at the organization’s oldest facility, the Musgrave Unit. Through the “Living the Dream, Making it Green” campaign, generous Club donors were able to match the $75,000 provided by Atlanta based Southface Energy Institute. The sustainability project included several improvements to the Musgrave facility, such as LED lighting, HVAC control systems, two energy efficient HVAC units, a pool blanket and storage reel, improvements to drinking fountains and a brand new solar energy system. The total cost of the project was $155,000. The installation of the improvements took approximately three months and was completed on February 22, 2018. We expect to save the Club over 25% on its utility costs each year. These savings will go directly to supporting our Club programs for many years to come, so it’s a gift that keeps on giving!

Special thanks to Southface Energy Institute, Tim O’Reilly, and the Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma Club!
Join us for an estate planning seminar led by acclaimed lawyer, Lisa McLaughlin. Earn continuing education credits while enjoying lunch. For more information contact Savannah Jackson at 417.862.9249 x115 or sjackson@bgclubspringfield.org.

The BGC Partners in Education group will be hosting the 12th Annual Day for Kids Fun Walk. All funds raised will be used for college scholarships, dual credit classes, ACT testing, etc. For more information call 417.862.9249 or email pgpmc4828@gmail.com.

Lederhosen, Oompah music, traditional German food and more make the Oktoberfest Bike for Kids a fun ride you won’t want to miss! All proceeds are used to support the BGC Sertoma Unit. Contact Savannah Jackson at sjackson@bgclubspringfield.org or 417.862.9249 x115 for more information.

Ron Moses
Jack Henry
"I was looking for an opportunity to give back to our community and when selecting an organization I wanted to choose an organization that meant something to me. When I was a youth growing up in Springfield, I spent countless hours at the Boys Club on Boonville Sreet so the Boys and Girls Clubs have a personal meaning to me as they helped shape the person I have become".

Conrad Griggs
Bank of Missouri
"I believe the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield is the best conduit for helping children achieve their dreams!"

Maurice Moss
City Utilities
"As a community, we're responsible for making sure our children have the opportunity to succeed in life. Serving on the Boys & Girls Clubs board allows me to play a pivotal role in giving that opportunity to our children and increasing their chances of having a purpose driven, successful life".

Welcome to our New Board Members
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
- General Operations
- Education & Career Development
- Health & Life Skills
- Character & Leadership Development

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Please charge $_______________ per month to:
Or charge a one-time gift of $_____________ to my:

Monthly charge date: 5th 20th

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Gifts by Check
I have enclosed a gift of $______________ payable to the BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD

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