The CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 2019

Fremont Unit
Grand Opening

bgclubspringfield.org
Hello Friends of BGCS!

Thank you so much for taking some time out of your day to read the next edition of The Challenge. We just completed another successful, jam-packed summer. We are so grateful for the many meaningful experiences we were able to provide our kids this year. From field trips to fun programs to college visits, our 1415 Club members had a summer to remember. Plus, this summer we served an additional 379 members!

Now, a new school year is underway and we have opened our 5th location! The Fremont Unit opened on August 13th and boasts around 100 members in its first month. The Fremont Unit is located inside Fremont Elementary and we utilize school space (only) to run this program. While this model is the first of its kind for us, it has already shown some incredible benefits. We have strengthened our partnership with Springfield Public Schools, are able to serve more kids, and we have made before and after school care more accessible to families. We are so thankful to have also recently received the 21st Century Grant to help fund our new Fremont Unit. Read more about Fremont and the grant funding on page 4!

In case you missed it, we signed an incredible scholarship agreement with Missouri State University. Every student, who graduates as an active member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, will be eligible to receive a $2000 scholarship per year to become a Bear! They are also matching our Youth of the Year scholarship. At our Missouri Area Council Event, an annual event for Board members and CEOs across the State, Missouri State University announced this scholarship rolling out to all Clubs in Missouri! It was an incredible night and you can see more, including the induction of our very own Pat Gartland, into the Hall of Fame on page 6.

My personal and most sincere thanks to all of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, partners, and financial supporters. Our continued success depends on a strong team of passionate people, just like you, who care deeply about children – and that’s exactly what our Club community represents. Thank you again for everything that you do and enjoy this edition of the Challenge!

Best Regards,

Brandy Harris
Chief Executive Officer
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.
We just recently opened our first fully integrated Club location inside of Fremont Elementary and we couldn’t be happier with how things are looking over there! We have 102 children registered who can enjoy the Club not only after school is out, but before it begins as well. This location currently employs five Youth Development Professionals, Program Director, Hannah Wilson and Unit Director, Jeremy Hiatt.

This location is especially special for so many reasons. With the Club being a shared space with Fremont Elementary, it is super convenient for everyone involved that transportation is not necessary. But most importantly to us, there was an evident need, and we are able to address that. “Of the 356 students enrolled, nearly 300 receive free or reduced lunch. Nearly 72% of students received a below basic MAP test score in math, while 31.3% of students received a below basic MAP test score in English/Language Arts,” Principal James Grandon informs. We are so thankful to be able to be right there for these students before and after school to ensure Great Futures.

Hannah Wilson shared this special story with us:

One member, Zae M., begged his mother to stay until the Club closed after she came to pick him up just an hour after he arrived. He told Hannah, “I’ve got to do so many things that I haven’t done before, like to stay after school with my friends and play all these cool games that they’re teaching me. I already love this place!”

We love knowing that we’ve already begun making an impact in the lives of our Fremont members and are so eager to see what all we accomplish here.

A 21st Century Celebration

On October 3rd, our team was notified that we were recipients of the U.S. Department of Education’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. Through this grant we will receive $821,751 over the next five years to fund the operations and continue our new program at Fremont Elementary. Our CEO Brandy Harris began working on the 21st Century Grant process in February 2019 after learning about the funding process from other Clubs. Brandy had a vision and created a team of dedicated staff members to complete the grant. (Continued on next page)
Meet our new Director of Development, Didem Koroglu

We are pleased to welcome to our team, new Director of Development, Didem Koroglu. Didem is an award-winning marketing and communication professional who is experienced in strategic planning, market research, digital engagement, public relations, advertising, fundraising, development, branding, and identity. After obtaining her Master’s degree in Mass Communication from Arizona State University, she started her career in pharmaceutical marketing before becoming the Director of Marketing for a healthcare system.

You may have heard her name before as associated with Missouri State University. She is currently an adjunct instructor there, teaching advanced level Public Relations courses. Not only has she taught in Springfield, but also at various colleges in and outside of the United States. While living in Brookings, South Dakota, she served on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Brookings Board. Our mission is one of which she is quite fond and familiar. “I think given the right opportunity, youth will do amazing things in life. We offer so many great opportunities and programs at our Clubs that enable youth to find their passion,” Didem states. When she is not at Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield or Missouri State University, you will either find her cheering on her daughter at basketball games or enjoying her Saturday morning at the farmer’s market.

We already have seen what an asset Didem is to this team. She is so excited to have been given the opportunity to find resources to make Great Futures happen right here in Springfield. “We have an amazing group of long-time supporters in our community that work with us to ensure we can continue to provide all the programming and opportunities for the youth of our community,” she says. We look forward to watching her use her skillset to help ensure BGCS continues its success in this community. Welcome to our family, Didem!
September 17-19, we hosted Boys & Girls Club Board members and CEOs from across Missouri for our Missouri Area Council Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton and The Barley House at Moon Town Crossing. Some highlights from the event include inducting our previous Executive Director, Pat Gartland, into the Hall of Fame; BGCS being recognized for our partnership with Burrell Behavioral Health; and Missouri State University signing an agreement with 13 clubs across Missouri to make college accessible for club members. We would like to thank all who attended, and especially would like to thank O'Reilly Hospitality Management, LLC, Commerce Bank, and David and Suzie Spence for sponsoring the event.

On Thursday, September 5th, our organization hosted an Estate Planning Seminar at our Sertoma Unit. We welcomed a special guest, Mrs. Denise Schuh, Executive Director of Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management. Schuh presented on Strategies for Giving Away the Farm and Other Complex Assets. Through this seminar, attendees earned one hour credit of continued education. Thank you to Simmons Bank, Heim, Young & Associates, Commerce Bank, and Spencer Fane for making this event possible. Guests also enjoyed a delicious lunch and a wonderful performance by Alexis Lewers, former Club member and current staff.
Fun Walk & Day for Kids

On Saturday, September 14th we held our 13th Annual Day for Kids & Fun Walk at our Stalnaker Unit, put on by Partners in Education, HOTO Sertoma, and the Boys & Girls Club staff. The day was filled with breakfast, great walking weather, games, prizes, face painting, food, special guest appearances from superheroes and princesses, and so much more! Thank you to everyone who participated. We hope you had a blast! All of the proceeds received are going towards college scholarships for members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield.

Oktoberfest Bike for Kids

This year’s 5th Annual Bike for Kids was hosted on Sunday, September 29, at the Barley House at Moon Town Crossing. It was a beautiful morning for our riders who participated in 8, 20, and 30 mile bike rides. The bike rides were followed by an Oktoberfest celebration, which included German-themed food, drinks, and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will benefit our Sertoma Unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Thank you to all of the riders and sponsors!
Welcome to the Team!

New Staff

Mia Joe
Stalnaker Program Director

Jeremy Hiatt
Fremont Unit Director

Hannah Wilson
Fremont Program Director

Steve Wallace
Musgrave Unit Director

Janie Ellenburg
Grant & Accounting Specialist

Sarah Hassan
Henderson Program Director

Jake Cartwright
Henderson Teen Director

Kayla Baker
Sertoma Membership Coordinator

Staff Promotions

New Board Members

Lisa Fabro
Queen City Sertoma

Don Wheeler
All Star Smiles

Jessica Cullen
BKD

Dr. Dee Siscoe
Missouri State University

Jason Anderson
Springfield Public Schools

Eric Mcguire
Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma

Jeremy Lux
Springfield Sertoma
Congratulations to the August 2019 Youth Development Professional: Ms. Janet from the Sertoma Unit. Ms. Janet is an amazing staff member. Janet has transformed the Gym's classroom management to a well-organized system to promote successful experiences and she strives to make it a fun, "frequent flyer" space for our members. Since the summer of 2019, Janet has brought a member-centered programming style to the space that continues to have progressive lesson plans throughout the semester. Thank you Ms. Janet for all your hard work and dedication to our organization. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mr. Kevin and the Stalnaker Unit for winning the August Program of the Month award. Summer Academic Quadrathlon is a program to foster friendly competition between the four Clubs in the area of academics, while also reinforcing several educational components they are learning at school. Members competed in the following events: Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Math Bowl, and Science Fair. Members were very excited to participate in this program and it is a great way to showcase our members’ academic skills. Congratulations Mr. Kevin and the Stalnaker Unit for this awesome program!
On September 29th we had our Sertoma Cadillac Raffle held at Moon Town Crossing and our Sertoma Memorial Golf Tournament at Fremont Hills Country Club held on September 30th. During the raffle we gave away a 2019 Cadillac XT4 Luxury Vehicle sponsored by Thompson Sales Company, as well as 9 other amazing prizes. Our grand prize winner was Richard Johanningmeier! Congratulations to all who won & thank you to Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma for sponsoring the event along with all of our other incredible sponsors and participants! All proceeds from the tournament and raffle will benefit the new Boys & Girls Club unit at Fremont Elementary.

On November 10th, we will host our Non-Celebrity Waiter Dinner to raise money for the Clubs. The event will be held at Char Restaurant & Oyster Bar. If you would like to serve as a waiter or would like more information, please contact Didem at 417-862-9249 or at dkoroglu@bgclubsspringfield.org.

This year will be our 25th Annual Christmas to Remember. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019. This year we will purchase gifts for 125 selected members across all five of our units between the ages of 6-12 years old. These members will be our guests at the Doubletree Hotel in the Glendalough Ballroom at 2431 N. Glenstone Ave. We will have a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, the children will sing carols and let us know what Christmas means to them, and of course, a special guest will make his annual appearance to deliver gifts to the children. Watch for new information as the date of the event gets closer on our website and social media.
SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD

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Signature __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ Date __ __ __ __ __ __

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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 Didem Koroglu at 417.862.9249.
If you are getting duplicates of our newsletter, *The Challenge*, please let us know. Call 417-862-9249 x113 or email dkoroglu@bgclubspringfield.org.

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