The CHALLENGE

JUNE 2019

Steak & Steak
Youth of the Year

bgclubspringfield.org
Hello Friends of BGCS!

Thank you so much for taking some time out of your day to read this edition of The Challenge. The summer is underway at four of our locations! So far, we are serving around 900 kids in our summer programs and year to date, we have had an impact on 15,000 kids through outreach and our sports programs.

I believe it is our job to make sure our kids have the best summer possible and that is what we intend to do. Members get to take full advantage of our Clubs including access to our gyms, games rooms, learning centers, tech labs, art rooms, music rooms, pre-teen centers, teen centers, and more. Each day, they get to eat a hot meal and a snack. They get to go on a number of field trips including swimming, Incredible Pizza, mini golf, cave exploration, bowling, the Discovery Center, Fritz’s Adventure, Wonders of Wildlife, laser tag, and movie theaters. Teen members will be heading to Orlando to attend the National Keystone Conference where they will learn about the importance of civic engagement in their communities. They are also going on a number of college visits across our region!

This summer, members also get access to so many wonderful programs such as:

>> Summer Brain Gain and Springfield Public Schools EXPLORE Academies to prevent summer learning loss.

>> Positive Action, Smart Moves, and Too Good for Violence programs in partnership with Community Partnership of the Ozarks to equip members with the skills necessary to make good decisions.

>> Fine arts, music lessons, and photography programs to enhance members’ creativity.

>> Triple Play, basketball, tennis, volleyball, running clubs, yoga and more to promote sports, fitness and recreation.

Families also play a great part in our mission. This summer, families get to participate in a number of family nights, classes, workshops, and more. At some of our Clubs, families also get access to our Club gardens where they can take home free fresh produce cultivated by Club members!

We are so excited to do “Whatever it Takes” to bridge gaps for kids. It is not too late to sign your kids up for our program. To our incredible donors, I encourage you to stop by a Club and see all the amazing things happening on a daily basis. Feel free to call me and set up a tour at 417-862-9249. Here's to a great summer!

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.

Support the programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield

Make your donation online by visiting www.bgclubspringfield.org and clicking on DONATE.
On Tuesday, April 9th, Mercy Springfield presented the 23rd Annual Steak & Steak Dinner benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. This year we were very excited to have Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, as the featured guest speaker. Mahomes 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 Mahomes filled the sold-out room with energy and excitement. Special guest, Voice of the Chiefs, Mitch Holtus was also in attendance. Steak & Steak is the largest fundraiser of the year to support the more than 2,250 youth who attend the Clubs after school and in the summer. This year we were able to raise over $413,000 to support local youth, making this the most successful event to date! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event possible!
Meet Sydney Schader

Sydney is the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield 2019 Youth of the Year. This prestigious honor is given once a year to a Club member who demonstrates a commitment to his/her community and Club, possesses core values that represent the mission of the Club, and ensures a clear vision for the future of America’s youth.

Sydney was a senior at Willard High School. She graduated in May and is attending Lindenwood University to obtain a degree in non-profit leadership. She has been a member of the Stalnaker Unit since 2007. She is incredibly passionate about helping others. In fact, much of her free time is spent at the Club as both a member and a staff. Sydney has a great vision for the future of America’s youth. She hopes to share with others the importance of quality relationships, stress-management, and how the Club is a safe space for all kids.

Sydney states, “The Boys & Girls Club has created a stable environment for me for twelve years. It is difficult for me to explain the Club’s impact because so much of it is intangible. When I think of the woman I am today, I am confident that I can contribute many of my successes to the Club. The Club has inspired me, taught me to take action, and has enabled me to believe that I am capable of great things.”
On Friday, May 10th, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield held the 12th 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 31 teams register to play and were able to raise more than $49,000 in total revenue to support the Clubs and youth served, making it a very successful event. This year was dedicated to Steve Hesser, Drury University’s Mens Basketball Coach. 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; Jon & Kathy Risdal, Birdie Sponsor; and Kevin & Debbie Singleton, Banquet & Awards Sponsor.

MSU Scholarship

Providing deserving youth access to higher education

There's a new Missouri State University scholarship for Boys & Girls of Springfield's students. Students enrolled in the clubs, many from under-resourced families, are eligible for the MSU-Boys & Girls Clubs Scholarship. It's offered for their first year of undergraduate study and may be renewed for three years. MSU President, Clif Smart, said the scholarship supports the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield's mission—to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. BGCS CEO, Brandy Harris, said this scholarship will further the clubs' impact on the kids they serve.

"We are in the business of bridging the gap for kids and MSU is an integral part of that mission, especially now. When we work together, we are stronger. We’re grateful for this opportunity as we believe, it will truly change lives". -Brandy Harris, BGCS CEO
Graduation Celebration

Congrats Seniors!

On April 24th, we held our annual Graduation Celebration honoring our seniors for their great accomplishments. Our teens were able to enjoy food, a photo booth, prizes and our seniors received a $150 gift card! A special thank you to Christina Ford, with the Rebound Foundation, for speaking about staying focused and being determined to never give up and Cindy Dodson, BGCS Director of Scholarships and Volunteers, for telling about scholarships and how to apply for them. Congratulations seniors, your great futures are ahead!

CEOOpens

New CEO hosts Focus Groups

Our new CEO has been busy hosting a number of "CEOOpens". These focus groups with Club members, staff, and parents allow for Brandy to gather feedback, ideas, opportunities for growth, and more. We are so grateful to the many people who took time out of their day to participate. As one Club member mentioned, "I love when people ask us what we want. I like that people at the Club listen to us." This information will be used to help us craft our vision for the future.
Club members get celebrated for their accomplishments

The Banquet of Champions is a celebration at each Club to reward their members for all their hard work during the school year. Each Club has their own traditions that make their members feel special. Members and their families get to participate in fun activities, enjoy great food, and celebrate their accomplishments with an awards ceremony. It was a fun night for members, *bring on summer!*
Boys & Girls Club Week

Sertoma Unit celebrates BGC Week

Clubs in Springfield celebrated National Boys & Girls Club Week April 8-12th. Our Sertoma Unit Boys & Girls Club especially enjoyed this celebration! Each day had a special theme with special activities. Members celebrated their Club with an open house, celebrated kindness with an anti-bullying rally, celebrated healthy lifestyles with a field day, and celebrated great futures with a career fair. It was a great week for all!

Hey Batter, Batter!

Learn about our Baseball Program

Summer Baseball is officially underway here at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield! Our leagues serve children 4-12 years old. These games are exciting and the atmosphere is electric! We have decided to add a Fall Baseball program to expand our reach and impact on the youth here in our community. Our Fall Baseball program will get more kids involved playing baseball with us here at the Clubs. We strive to help build more caring, honest, and productive citizens through all of our sports programs. We are always looking for volunteers and sponsors to help strengthen our program. Contact Sam Plummer at splummer@bgclubspringfield.org for any questions or details.

For more information about our Fall Baseball program, please visit http://www.bgclubspringfieldsports.org/home
What Will Be Your Legacy?

Story by Gary Powell
As I tell my clients, there is a reason why we call a will a person’s last will and testament. A will (or, more accurately, an estate plan) reflects a person’s intent as to his or her legacy. A person’s legacy is what he or she hands down to his or her family and community.

That legacy could consist of an estate plan which is clear and equitable, and reflects substantial thought and planning. Or a legacy might be no plan at all, or a confusing hodge podge that shows that little or no thought was involved in creating the plan (or perhaps the person just did not care what happened after he or she was gone).

A legacy can benefit both a person’s family and that person’s community. Family is important, but so is community. Families thrive when the community thrives. A financial legacy to a community can often have far reaching impact on the success of that community.

The Boys & Girls Club Trust Fund is a wonderful place for a person to leave a lasting legacy for our community. The trust fund is a perpetual fund, and will always be there to support the programs of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, for the benefit of future generations of boys and girls in our community.

As you consider what you want your legacy to be, I would ask that you consider a gift to the Boys & Girls Club Trust Fund as part of that legacy. In that way, you will leave a legacy that will last for a long, long time. 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CLE Training
Join us for an estate planning seminar led by acclaimed lawyer, Denise Schuh, an estate planning attorney with Morgan Stanley. Earn continuing education credits while enjoying lunch. For more information contact Chris Whitehead at 417.862.9249 x113 or cwhitehead@bgclubspringfield.org.

Day for Kids Fun Walk
The BGC Partners in Education group will be hosting the 13th 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 aryt@otc.edu.

Oktoberfest Bike for Kids
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 Chris Whitehead at cwhitehead@bgclubspringfield.org or 417.862.9249 x113 for more information.
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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- Sports, Fitness & Recreation
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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 Chris Whitehead at 417.862.9249.
If you are getting duplicates of our newsletter, *The Challenge*, please let us know. Call 417-862-9249 x115 or email sjackson@bgclubspringfield.org.

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