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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sip, Savor & Support



TIME:
5:30 – 8:30 PM

LOCATION:
807 W Hudson Rd
Rogers, AR

For more info:
www.bgcbentoncounty.org/events

Programming is at the Heart of What We Do.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton County provides a variety of programs that are built upon our dedication to a high-quality Club experience, which means providing a safe, positive environment (encompassing both physical and emotional safety), ensuring supportive relationships with adults and peers, offering meaningful opportunities, frequently recognizing youth and staff for their accomplishments, and always having fun.

Each program offered at our Clubs reflects these five pillars and offers tested, proven, and nationally recognized programs that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people, with an emphasis on academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship. While each Club is encouraged to develop and implement programs that best meet the needs of its members, all of our programs inspire and empower youth to excel in school, become good citizens and lead healthy, productive lives driven by passion and purpose. We are proud of what we do and how much our staff has to offer within our Clubs and communities.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

MISSION

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

VISION

To ensure all kids who need us the most have access to a world-class Club experience, which ensures that success is in their reach, they graduate high school on time & they become productive members of the community.

CORE VALUES

FUN
SAFETY
RESPECT
BELONGING
STEWARDSHIP
HONEST COMMUNICATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Malo, *President*

Nick Flint, *Immediate Past President*

Scott Duhamel, *Vice President*

Louis Martin, *Vice President*

Jeff Evans, *Treasurer*

Amy Elliott, *Secretary*

Stephen Beringer	Eugene Kublanov
Tregg Brown	Shannon Letts
Drew Collom	Dick Levin
Jon Davis	John Mauck
Ted Fox	Mike Moore
Rob Gelbach	Prathibha Rajashekhar
Thomas Harris	Stephanie Riffle
Mark Huffman	Vernon Solis
Jerry Kihn	Karen Stuckey

In past newsletters, I typically use this space to reflect on the many accomplishments of the organization over the last several months. From new programs, new partnerships, facility improvements and of course the kids – it's amazing to sit back and watch all the great work and talk about the impact that the Club is having. For this newsletter, however, I want to focus on something else which is often overlooked and that's the people who make all of this possible! Leading a non-profit is extremely humbling because I'm constantly surrounded by incredible people who put service above themselves. These are the people who dedicate their lives to helping others and giving back and I just want to take this opportunity to recognize them.



To start off with, I have twenty-four hard-working, dedicated board members who serve the organization with their time, their talent and their treasure. From committee and board meetings, to volunteer days, to fundraising events and everything in between, each and every one of them rise to the occasion time after time because they care and because they believe in our mission. In addition to the board, I also have seventy-five committed staff members who show up every day ready to take on the world, one kid at a time. Every kid in our Club is different and somehow, some way, they find ways to connect with each and every one of them, helping them to achieve their goals. I love when I see staff members give each other high fives because a Club member got a job interview or aced a test at school. They understand that what they do is all about the kids! And working right along side my staff are the wonderful volunteers who graciously give their precious time to help the Club. Sometimes that comes in the form of a service project where they paint walls, install carpet, clean out sheds and closets, and other times it is a day of just playing games or reading to the kids.

There are two more groups of people to recognize and I can say, without a doubt, that none of the work we do would be possible without them. The first is all of the civic and community leaders who go out of their way to support our kids. The partnership that we have with the cities and school districts is special and we have found ways to serve each other, especially in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The second is the unbelievable support of our corporate sponsors and individual donors. Because of them, we have financially weathered the COVID "storm" without cutting a single program or lay off any staff. Just saying thank you doesn't even begin to express the extent of my gratitude, but I will say it anyway! Thank you so much for your investment in our mission and for your trust in us to do what we say we're going to do.

This article is definitely not enough to recognize the efforts of everyone I mentioned above. I wish there was something more that I or the organization could do to help you understand the impact that you're making. While the coming months remain uncertain, one thing is for sure – our continued success depends on a strong team of passionate people, just like you, who care deeply about children, because that's exactly what our Club community represents. Thank you again for everything you do.

Take care and please stay safe,

Matt Saliaffero





— YOUTH OF THE YEAR —

EACH YEAR, OUR CLUB HONORS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER TO SERVE AS YOUTH OF THE YEAR. He or she acts as an ambassador of the Club, speaks in front of City Officials and Board Members at Club events, and most importantly, acts as a role model for all of the younger kids in our program.

To become Youth of the Year, nominees go through a rigorous process with an essay application and a panel interview comprised of Board Members and strategic community partners. Picking one outstanding teen is always a difficult decision, but it's also incredibly rewarding to see all that our teens have accomplished thus far in their young lives, and to hear about their goals for the future.

We are excited to announce this year's Youth of the Year: Omar Contreras!

A nine-year member of our Rogers Club, Omar credits the Club's supportive and caring staff, his involvement with Keystone Club, and career exposure activities as key aspects of his fulfilling Club experience. As a testament to his strong leadership skills, Omar was hired as a Youth Development Coordinator at the Rogers Unit in 2019. Omar intends to attend the Dental School of Tennessee after graduating from high school.

"I have seen a tremendous amount of growth in Omar since starting at the Club," said Ashley Skaggs, Director of Programs. "He has not only stepped up in leadership roles at the Teen Center by leading projects and events, but he has grown

as a Youth Development Coordinator, leading our members to make positive choices. One thing I admire about Omar is his empathy and compassion toward others, and we at the Club see that as his superpower. Omar also shows a great amount of grit and determination. Once he sets his mind on something, he does not stop until he achieves his goal. Omar exemplifies what it takes to be named Youth of the Year and we could not be prouder!"

As Youth of the Year, Omar has already received a \$5,000 scholarship from our Club, and additional scholarship money from Boys & Girls Clubs of America to use toward his education. We are so proud of Omar and the six other outstanding candidates who competed in the Youth of the Year selection process by delivering their speeches and being interviewed by a panel of judges. We can't wait to see what the future holds for all of our amazing teens as they continue to pursue greatness.

Being named Youth of the Year means everything to me. It shows how hard I worked to overcome these challenges throughout the years as a Club member. It shows that your past shouldn't define your future.

Omar C.



Club Updates

Hunger Does Not Take a Summer Vacation

At BGCBC, we believe every young person should have access to healthy, affordable meals and snacks and be equipped to make healthy decisions resulting in positive social, emotional and physical well-being. Stressing the importance of offering nutritious meals to children during out-of-school time, we are pleased to announce the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. These programs, which are funded by the USDA, provide reimbursement for the nutritious meals and snacks served to children and teens after school and in the summer.



With over 60% of our Club members qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunches, programs administered by the USDA provide a valuable resource, as the meals many of our Club members receive may be the only nutritious meals they enjoy on a normal day. And when children have access to nutritious food at the same time that they participate in educational and enriching activities, they are both drawn to constructive and safe environments while getting the fuel they need to participate fully both after school and back in the classroom the next day.



CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kayleigh, 15 years old, Rogers Teen Center

How long have you been coming to the Club?

6 years, since the 5th grade.

What is your favorite thing to do at the Club?

I love participating in tournaments. I love competing and having fun. I love helping the kids with activities as well.

What is one way the Club has helped you?

The Club has helped me become more independent and confident with my social skills.

What do you like doing when you're not at the Club?

In my spare time I do boxing and lifting. I also like hanging out with friends and I like sleeping.

What is something unique about you?

I can sing and act!



SUMMER *at the* CLUB





Contact Information

Boys & Girls Club of Benton County
PO Box 448
Bentonville, AR 72712

Tel: (479) 273-7187

Email: info@bgcbentoncounty.org

Rogers Unit
409 S 8th St.
(479) 633 .0044

McKinney Unit (Bentonville)
2801 N Walker St.
(479) 273 .7187

**John & Maxine Watson Black Unit
(Pea Ridge)**
1442 N Davis St.
(479) 715.4448

Rogers Teen Center
704 W Cypress St.
(479) 256 .2464

Bella Vista Unit
2260 Forest Hills Blvd
(479) 876 .6786



Your gift helps keep our kids safe.



Text To Give

Text: GOBGCBC to 44-321
to donate through texts!



Donate Online

bgcbentoncounty.org/donate

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Visit smile.amazon.com. Select Boys & Girls Club of Benton County as your charitable organization!

GETTING + GIVING THE MOST FROM YOUR ASSETS

When most people think about making a charitable gift, they think of giving cash. While we appreciate gifts of any kind to help support our Club and our members, there are many ways you can give and benefit from making a gift of other assets—such as real estate, annuities, life insurance, bequests, IRA roll-overs and more.

To learn more, contact Matt Taliaferro, CEO
mtaliaferro@bgcbentoncounty.org

Donate a Wish List Item!

We serve over 3,000 kids in the community, so we are ALWAYS in need of supplies for our Clubs.

These items include:

- cleaning supplies
- candy
- copy paper
- art supplies
- office supplies
- board games
- school supplies
- sports equipment
- books
- personal hygiene items

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



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