**MAY 2020** 







## WHAT'S INSIDE

Mission	2
Board of Directors	2
Message from the CEO	2
Club Highlights	3
Senior Spotlight	4

## SAVE THE DATE



6 - 9:30 PM **Location:** The Record 104 NW A St., Bentonville Exciting details to come!

sponsorship & more contact: Stefanie Jackson, Dir. Resource Development

# **Doing Whatever It Takes**

During this uncertain time when closures resulting from COVID-19 have caused our families to lose access to critical support systems that keep children safe, healthy, and engaged, the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County has remained committed to finding innovative ways to reach the children in our community. Our dedication to young people and their families does not waver in times of social crisis, such as the pandemic we



are facing. In fact, it grows ever stronger. We serve as a vital resource to a vulnerable population that often lacks access to proper healthcare, food choices and transportation. When a city – and a nation – navigates a challenge such as COVID-19, understanding the ramifications to our Club families is critical. That's why we have responded with innovative, solution-focused strategies to meet the needs as they are made known, in real-time.

## **Our Impact**



**2.422** Meals & Snacks Served



300

Activity Packs Delivered



32

Virtual Activities Posted to Social Media



Social Media Engagements



### **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 Tregg Brown Drew Collom Jon Davis Ted Fox

Jon Davis Ted Fox Thomas Harris Mark Huffman Jerry Kihn Eugene Kublanov Dick Levin Tim Meyer John Mauck Karen Stuckey

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

Greetings from BGCBC! I hope everyone is staying safe and finding ways to deal with the impact of social distancing, home-schooling and limited time outside of the house. The past couple of months here at the Club have been interesting for sure. COVID-19 has impacted all of us in different ways – our kids, our families, and our coworkers are all learning new ways to cope in the midst of this nationwide crisis. Our community has been turned upside down by something we



cannot see, taste, or smell, which has confined many of us to our homes for weeks on end. The impact on the Club has been substantial, as we made the very difficult decision to temporarily close our doors to prevent the potential spread of the virus as safety of our kids and our staff is our number one priority. It is times like these that test our true character, our resolve, and our commitment to our mission to serve our kids, especially those who need us most.

I am so proud of my amazing staff and their creativity in constantly finding new ways to stay connected with the kids and help families in need. They've been busy making funny videos for the kids to watch on YouTube, conducting ZOOM calls with teens, delivering groceries to doorsteps of families who can't get out of the house and delivering educational activity packs to keep the kids busy when they're not doing homework. They even had a 'Clubmazing Race' through Bentonville, Bella Vista and Pea Ridge (from the safety of their cars, of course) just so the kids could say, "Hi" to their favorite staff member! On top of all that, we know that with school being out, food security for many families is an issue. So we've been serving lunch via drive-through at many of our sites. Lastly, we've taken advantage of the downtime to conduct some much-needed repairs on our facilities. Our Rogers unit now has a new gym floor and the McKinney unit has a new entryway! So, we've been staying busy to say the least.

Despite all of the daunting challenges and unknowns that lie ahead, just know that we will make it through this! We can't wait for the kids to walk through our Blue Doors again so we can hear their laughter, see their smiling faces and give high fives and fist bumps. While we do not know what the future holds in the coming weeks and months, we do know that we're going to face a "new normal" where daily temperature screenings, face masks and constant hand-washing are going to become part of our everyday life. Regardless, we'll be ready at each of our facilities with all of the proper safety measures in place. We pray for you and your family's well being and the ability to resume our services soon!

All the Best,

Matt Taliaferro

# **Club Highlights**



# THE CLUBMAZING

# QUARANTINE RACE



On Friday, May 1st families from Bella Vista, Bentonville, and Pea Ridge made their way around their respective cities/towns participating in our first ever Clubmazing Quarantine Race.



Club members had to race each other to find and solve clues that would eventually lead them to their last and final destination, our Bentonville Club!



Throughout the evening, over 20 families participated and one lucky family won a \$250 Walmart Gift Card from our grand prize drawing!



Here, they turned in their tickets, which they received from staff members at each stop, and had the chance to throw a water balloon at their Unit Director!



3

Whatever it Takes for Youth, Families & Communities





# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

At the heart of our Clubs are youth development coordinators, who impart positive values that our Club members take with them into their communities and their futures. We wanted to take this opportunity to recognize those awesome individuals who will be graduating from high school this year. We are so proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to see what the future holds for them!



EMMA SCHOLTES

Graduating from: Pea Ridge High School

"My favorite thing about working at BGCBC is creating bonds with the kids and getting to know all of their favorite things!"



**LORENA RAZURI** 

Graduating from: Pea Ridge High School

"My favorite thing about working at BGCBC iis making connections with the kiddos and watching them grow! As well as the support from the staff members that we are all just human!"



ETHAN BUTLER-HAWKINS

Graduating from: Bentonville West High School

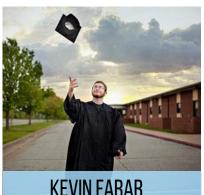
"I like working at the Boys and Girls Club because it gives me a place to have a positive impact, and is also a great work environment."



PAIGE WRIGHT

Graduating from: Pea Ridge High School

"I love getting to know the kids and getting to be someone they look up to. Getting to work here has been the best experience!"



Graduating from: Pea Ridge High School

"My favorite thing about working at BGCBC is getting to be there for the kids who have had a bad day and helping cheer them up."



Graduating from: Pea Ridge High School

"I love that every day I have the opportunity to put a smile on a kid's face. I get to speak life into them and encourage them in everything they do. I love that I inspire young people to be the best versions of themselves."



**CAITLIN DEASON** 

Graduating from: Gravette High School

"My favorite part about working at BGCBC is interacting with the kids, seeing their confidence grow, and beloing helping provide a positive environment for them to thrive."





# **GREAT FUTURES START HERE**

#### 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 Ridae) 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 will help keep our kids safe.

### **DONATE NOW!**



### **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 Stefanie Jackson, Director of Resource Development sjackson@bgcbentoncounty.org

### STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



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

