

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area 344 Broadway Street PO Box 254 Berlin, WI 54923-0254

MISSION

To improve the lives of children and families.

VISION

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The Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area will be a generation-changing leading provider of programs emphasizing youth development services and family outreach support to meet the needs of young people 6-18 and their families, especially those who need us most.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Please visit our website **www.bgctric.org** and stay connected with us!



WINTER 2019 | NEWSLETTER







THE BLUE DOO Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area News



WHAT'S UP INSIDE?

- A note from Jason
- Kids Say: Wishes for 2019
- Member Spotlight
- Dream Big Program
- Soccer Season is coming!
- Great Futures Celebration
- See what our kids have been up to



WEARIN' & SHAR

GER MINING

Wearin' & \$harin' the Green will celebrate its Sweet Sixteen on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Heidel House Resort and Spa in Green Lake. This event is the area's largest premier fundraiser and the Club's biggest event.



Known for its massive silent auction and dynamic live auction, this event brings a new unique twist year after year. "It is our goal to outdo ourselves every year. We approach the event from the viewpoint of the guest and make improvements to ensure their experience has a wow factor every year," explained Ashley Bartol, Special Events & Marketing Manager with the Club.

The event will bring back some guest favorites such as the Golden Coin, designer purse raffle, and wine raffle. It will also introduce a few new raffles and aspects to the event to help celebrate its Sweet Sixteen. All guests who attend the event will have access to The After Glow Party, a St. Patty's Day party immediately following the dinner auction and gala. The After Glow Party features live music from the band, The Bomb, who are known for their explosively fun party experience. This 5-piece cover band from the Fox Valley plays anything from rock to pop to country!

Wearin' & \$harin' the Green will sell out so make sure to reserve your spot today by visiting our exclusive event website, **www.wearinandsharinthegreen.com**. Individual tickets for the event are \$75 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Ashley Bartol, Special Events & Marketing Manager, at 920-361-2717 or abartol@bgctric.org to register or for more information today!



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

GREETINGS,

As we say goodbye to 2018, it is rewarding to look back and reflect on how we've grown in our first year as an independent Club. The Club is serving more kids more often.

Our membership has grown and our average daily attendance has risen to 124 kids per day. This increase in attendance means more kids are being exposed to amazing programs. We've recently partnered with Moraine Park Technical College and are now participating in their Dream Big initiative which explores different career opportunities. Our SPARKS program, which is part of a grant received in partnership with the school district, allows us to offer kids ages 6-12 some unique programs like blogging, Tetris building, and science experiments.

While working hard every year to build and improve our programs and overall Club experience, we also factor in making sure every child has their basic needs met. Our unmet needs programs hit record numbers this year. Whether it was providing a child with the necessary school supplies for a successful school year, a warm coat during the winter, a full Thanksgiving meal to enjoy with family, or presents for Christmas, we were able to fulfill those requests with the help of investors, volunteers, and friends of the Club like yourself. We couldn't be more grateful for the support we've received.

As we look to 2019, we are hopeful to expand our reach even further and positively impact the lives of children and their families in our community. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. Happy New Year!

Many thanks,

Jason Presto, CEO



Babysitting course participants proudly show off their certifications.



SPARKS Club members display their geometric stencil work.



The Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area will be combining two of their events, the Annual Meeting and Youth of the Year Dinner, into the Great Futures Celebration. "The point of these events were to give a recap of the Club's prior year's achievements and reward our Club members for all they've accomplished. We felt it was important to combine the two so community and Club could come together and celebrate," explained Ashley Bartol, Special Events & Marketing Manager. "We have some fun things in store and can't wait to share them," she added. The new event will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at Royal Ridges in Ripon, WI.

> For more information regarding the event or to reserve your spot today, please contact Mindy Collado, center director, at 920-361-2717 or mcollado@bgctric.org.



SOCCER SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area will once again be offering a soccer program beginning in the spring. This program is open to any child age 5 - 5th grade. Registration for the program will begin in February, followed by a Spring Break Soccer Camp March 11-14th and indoor practices in April. Soccer games will begin at the end of April and will be held at the Club or Clay Lamberton's field. "We are really excited to be able to offer this program again. We are looking forward to another great season with some awesome kids who give it their all," stated Center Director, Mindy Collado. For more information regarding the soccer program, contact Program Coordinator Megan Beardsley at 920-361-2717.



Teens created their personal gingerbread house as part of the holiday activities at the Club.



DREAM BIG

Being located in a rural community, the Club identifies transportation as one of the largest barriers for our youth. "This program allows us the option to have students and instructors from the different programs come to us as well as give us an opportunity to use the Club resources to transport members to the campus to experience that environment," explains Govek. "Being able to share information and exposure in a group setting allows us to reach more youth."

With the hopes of offering a unique educational or career path option monthly, Club kids have already been exposed to the areas of automotive, welding, and health and wellness. Govek added, "There has been a shift in the interest in our teens. We have seen more members ask about technical college and the programs they offer. We've also seen an increase in our 'college, cocoa, and career opportunity' program. Kids are excited about this!"

KIDS SAY: WISHES FOR 2019

A unicorn bed! -Delilah, 6

99

Unlimited Xbox video games. - Carston, 9

World Peace - Jake, 10

Fortnite socks and shirt. -Israel, 8

An alien backpack. - Dustin, 9

For my friends and family to live forever. -Steven, 10



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COMING TO THE CLUB? I've been coming since I was 6.

> **FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE CLUB?** I loved the basketball camp.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE CLUB? My favorite thing is the gym.

F YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE? To be invisible!

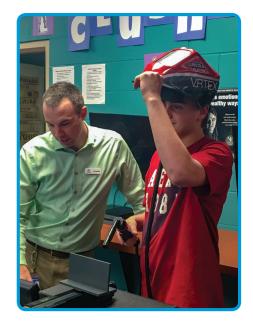
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU GROW UP? I'm going to join the National Guard.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STAFF MEMBER AND WHY? Brooke is my favorite because I can tell her anything and everything.

Teens decorate a local business's window as part of the city of Berlin's Window Wars.

Volunteers from Farmers & Merchants Bank help Club kids wrap gifts for their family members.

When Teen Futures Coordinator, Carrie Govek, joined the Boys & Girls Club she had a goal of helping Club members prepare for the future. Whether that future was attending a 4-year college, technical college, apprenticeship or another route, she knew it was key to introduce kids to a variety of opportunities. That's when the Dream Big program through Moraine Park



Technical College came into play. Dream Big began in 2017 as a way to introduce youth to over 100 careers available with the college. The partnership between MPTC and the Club was a natural one, as students from the school are able to showcase their careers and practice service learning while Club members get excited about the various career choices available to them.