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Brandy Harris
1410 N. FREMONT AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802
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Hello friends of BGCS!

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to read our 2022 Challenge Newsletter. I am endlessly proud of the work Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield has accomplished since its inception 84 years ago. This past year has been full of shifts, innovative ideas, local and national recognition, and a whole lot of helping kids.

Our community came together in so many meaningful ways. Springfield Public Schools supported our vision to expand services. We passed legislation to ensure that 5 year old students could have access to our program. We expanded into new communities. Countless partners and community members donated their time, talent, and treasure to help ensure equitable access to opportunity. Club Blue, our Young Professionals Network, grew and strategized about the best ways to help change the trajectory of children's lives. We had parties and Club dinners. We played, learned, and bridged academic gaps. Our work is so important and we have no intention of slowing down.

Our Club members need us now more than ever. As one of the only after-school providers that intentionally serves teens, the Next Generation is counting on us. One of the key data points that motivates our work is that 1,200 middle school & high school aged youth in Springfield are identified as unstably housed. This means that our community's kids are couchsurfing, staying with friends, and do not have a permanent home address. Additionally, new data on teen mental health during the pandemic suggest that for many, home life was full of stressors like job loss, hunger and even violence. Our middle and high school students need us. We have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us, but we are ready to serve our community's most vulnerable population. We are so excited to be working on our plan to open a state of the art teen center in 2024. The Risdal Family Center for Great Futures will be a hub for the needs facing our most vulnerable population. It will include innovative spaces to ensure our teens have access to the arts, sports, workforce readiness opportunities, education and financial literacy classes, mental and physical health services, healthy living and life skills programs, and more. 2022 Springfield Youth of the Year, Breanna Richards states, "A teen center is so important and we need spaces like this to learn, grow, and succeed."

As we adjust and enter the new year, we encourage you to stay up to date with the incredible things we are doing. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter. Follow us on social media. Call us and schedule a tour. There will be so many new ways for you to support our kids in 2023 and we can't wait to share those with you!

We have been busy, but our commitment to serving the kids and families who need us most is unwavering. We are so grateful for your support. If you are reading this, you have played a significant role in our mission and sincerely hope your support continues.

After all, they are the only Next Generation we've got.





2018 Best Overall Program-Major Division (Boys & Girls Clubs of America)

2020 Organization of the Year-Medium Size (Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Awards)



WHAT'S INSIDE











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OUR LOCATIONS

















MUSGRAVE HENDERSON STALNAKER

SERTOMA

FREMONT

McGregor

O'REILLY

MARSHFIELD



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2022 Great Futures Update

90 New Hires

OVER 3,000 Youth annually served

- Club **3** Stand-Alone Locations **2** Shared Combo

 - **3** School-based ■



110 Trained Adult Staff Members

Expect to Graduate

و free or السروط السروط

ST Opening doors to 5-year-olds time: Opening a unit in Marshfield

The Risdal Family

CENTER FOR GREAT FUTURES

Coming August 2024

THE PLAN:

- Bring generations of Springfield youth the safe, enriching space they need
- Address the growing need for teen mental health care and support
- Offer targeted, life-changing programs and education

Located on the newlyrevitalized **Grant Avenue Parkway**, we anticipate serving **1,000+ teen members**

THE DETAILS:

Serving as a community hub for all teen needs, the teen center will offer targeted, life-changing programs in a variety of areas such as

Give teens ample resources through partnerships with DHTC Development LLC, FosterAdopt Connect, eFactory, O'Reilly Hospitality Management and Springfield Public Schools

- The Arts
- Workforce Readiness
- Education
- Sports & Recreation
- Health & Wellness
- Character & Citizenship

\$12,000,000 BY 2024

THE BUDGET:

• Land Cost: \$400,000

• Hard Costs: \$8,750,000 - \$10,000,000

• Soft Costs: \$450,000 - \$600,000

• Operating Reserve - \$2,000,000

Read more about the Teen Center on page 14 or visit bgclubspringfield.org/teen-center



WELCOME TO THE TEAMS

New Hires:



Sunni Nutt Director of Operations



Connor Wilson Marketing & **Communications Asst**



Taylor Gibson HR Generalist



Rebekah Castillo Assoc. Director of Finance



Jodie Garton Executive & Admin. Assistant



Beth Jones Musgrave Program Director



Lacey Langwell Marshfield Asst. Site Lead/ Member. Coord.



Destini Smiles Stalnaker Membership Coordinator



Tammy Echessa Henderson Member. Coordinator

Nicole McLaughlin Marshfield Site Lead

Mackenzie Stokes Musgrave Member. Coordinator

Promotions:



Musgrave Unit Director



Sertoma Unit Director



Helen Brown Sertoma Program Director



Henderson Program Director

Looking to join the team? Head to

https://www.bgclubspringfield.org/careers and apply now!



SERVING THE N E X T GENERATION

Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield (BGCS) has spent 2022 working to help our community, and preparing to take that help to another level.

In June, we expanded out of Springfield to open our newest location in a unique partnership with the Marshfield R-I School District, providing programming from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Monday to accommodate the district's shift to a four-day school week.

In August, we expanded to serve kindergarten, welcoming children as young as 5 years old, to better meet the needs of families in our community.

We also continued our SHINE program in partnership with Springfield Public Schools, giving students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals at school access to Club memberships at no cost to their families.

But we aren't just looking at what we've done this past year. We're looking ahead.

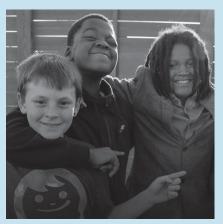
In Summer 2022, we announced our Capital Campaign for the Risdal Family Center for Great Futures. While BGCS is already one of the only after-school providers that intentionally serves teens, we've been working to do even more.

Bringing a campus-like atmosphere to Grant Avenue Parkway, we'll bring an over 44,000 sq ft center to Springfield in 2024. In that space we'll provide safety and programming in a wide variety of areas that've been hindered due to the pandemic.

"Many teens were actually at home during COVID and did not have the opportunity to go to school, interact with their peers, and this really had an impact on their social and emotional skills," said Director of Development Didem Koroglu.

Of the \$12,000,000 needed to make this a reality, we've already raised nearly \$5,500,000.

We're proud of what we've managed to accomplish this past year, but we're even more proud of what we're working to bring to Springfield in the future.







CREATING

HAPPY MEMORIES































IN THE NEWS







Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield expands to serve Marshfield

Risdal Family Center for Great Futures Capital Campaign launched

Minimum wage at BGCS raised from \$11.15 to \$14 an hour

BGCS expands coverage to include care for five-year-olds



BGCS CEO selected for

- Boys & Girls Clubs of America **Midwest Executive of the Year**
- **Brandy Harris** Springfield Business Journal 2022 **Most Influential Women**
 - Biz 417 Magazine's 2022 Biz 100

Feb. 19 - Sertoma **Chili Cook Off**



May 11 - 15th annual FORE! The Kids Golf **Tournament** presented by **Bobby Allison**



Nov. 7 -Wingapalooza



Sam's Club host holiday

party for the Clubs

March 16 - 2nd annual **Great Elixir Mixer**







BGCS would like to give a special thank you to Springfield Sertoma, Queen City Sertoma, Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma, Partners in Education, MD Kinney, and all of our community partners who work hard year-round to bring these wonderful events to life!

YOUTH OF THE YEAR





BREANNA RICHARDS

Central High School senior Breanna Richards was named Youth of the Year for 2022 by Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, the highest recognition the club offers to one member each year.

Each year, young people nationwide participate in the Youth of the Month and Youth of the Year programs, allowing them to practice important leadership skills and deepen their involvement with the Club.

Breanna has been a club member of the Stalnaker Unit since the age of 6.

Today, she can be found at the Henderson Unit working as a Youth Development Professional while she's attending her first year of college at Missouri State University.

In addition to recognition which comes with the award, Breanna was also rewarded \$16,000 in scholarships!

JR. YOUTH OF THE YEAR CHLOE JONES



Our 2022 Jr. Youth of the Year was awarded to Fremont Elementary School student Chloe Jones!

Chloe said one of her favorite memories of the club comes from playing volleyball.

Chloe's life goal is to go to college, help animals in any way that she can, and to become the best friend she can be. The Jr. YOY program looks to recognize junior leaders ages 10 to 13.

Chloe also received a \$250 gift card prize from our partners at MD Kinney!



GREAT FUTURES LUNCHEON

Youth of the Year is a recognition program which focuses on acknowledging and making Club Members aware of their own leadership abilities. In our process for selecting a Youth of the Year, members of each club location are selected as Youth of the Month.

This past February, we hosted our annual Great Futures Luncheon to celebrate the achievements of Club Members involved in the Youth of the Year program!

Beyond announcing the winners of Youth of the Year and Jr. Youth of the Year, members also heard a keynote speech from Christina Ford, founder of The Rebound Foundation.

Several other finalists were also given scholarships! Demarco, a senior at the Henderson unit, was awarded the Great Futures Award and an \$8,000 scholarship courtesy of Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma! Another finalist, Tayia, a sophomore at the Henderson unit, earned the Alumni Association Award and \$2,000 thanks to the BGCS Alumni Association!

For more information on current Youth of the Month winners, visit our Facebook page @Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield





OUR PROGRAMS

The Club offers daily access to a broad range of programs in six core program areas:
Character & Leadership; The Arts; Health & Life Skills; Education; Workforce Readiness; and Sports, Fitness & Recreation

Character & Leadership Development

Members become responsible, caring citizens, build leadership skills, and become more civically minded through these programs. Examples include Torch Club, Keystone & Youth of the Year.

The Arts

These programs are designed to foster creativity in young people, and give them outlets for self-expression. Examples include Fine Arts, Image Makers & Guitar Lessons.

Health & Life Skills

These Programs develop young people's ability to participate in positive behaviors, emphasizing nutrition, physical activity, prevention education, and over-all well being. Examples include Smart Moves, Positive Action & mental health counseling.

Education

These Club programs are designed to ensure that all members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career. Examples include Power Hour & Summer Brain Gain.

REACH: Workforce Readiness

Through this program area, the Club provides equal access to workforce development opportunities among under-represented & under-resourced communities for both youth and their caretakers. Examples include career exploration, financial literacy & work-based learning.



Sports, Fitness & Recreation

Club sports programs help to develop physical fitness and reduce stress. They promote a positive use of leisure time, an appreciation of the environment, and interpersonal skills.

Some sports programs hosted over the past year include flag football, Club basketball, and Club baseball.

Club Basketball and Club Baseball sees **175+ members** of all ages participate **each session.**







BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SPRINGFIELD AMBASSADOORS





COACH BILL ROWE

LAUREN MUSTOE







DEBBIE HART

AMANDA DESA

SUNNI NUTT

The Blue AmbassaDOOR program recognizes the countless staff, volunteers and advocates who help to make BGCS what it is. Blue AmbassaDOORs are assets to Club operations and they open doors for kids and families on a regular basis. They are selfless and do #WhateverItTakes to make the world a better place for kids.

BLUE AMBASSADOOR SPOTLIGHT: COACH ROWE

Coach Rowe is a staple in this community. He served the Missouri State Bears as a coach and administrator for over 30 years and is the person who ushered MSU athletics into its Division !!

Beyond that commitment, Coach Rowe has served on our Steak & Steak committee for several years. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure we have engaging speakers, incredible auction items, and that each night runs smoothly. We're thankful for his hard-work and support of our mission!

OTHER RECENT HONOREES

Shonte Clay-Fulgham
Dewayne Long
Peyton Andrews
Edward Sands
Joanna Sexton
Randy Carpenter
Matthew Stublefield
The Lipscomb Family
Drew King



Steak & Steak returned on September 20, 2022, for the first time since 2019! Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball coach Bill Self led the night as our special guest speaker for the evening, but not before taking the time to speak with club members!

Guests of Steak & Steak were able to enjoy silent auctions, both virtual and live, along with a speech from Coach Self and, of course, dinner!

We couldn't have put it on without support from our Title Sponsor, Mercy, coordinating efforts of

Coach Bill Rowe, and the help of all our sponsors!

Thanks to our generous donors, attendees and the success of our silent auctions, Steak & Steak 2022 was able to generate over \$153,000 for BGCS!

Thank you to KOLR 10 for being a fantastic media partner, to our planning committee members Lance O'Neill, Randy Bachus, Bill Rowe, Bob Helm, Mary Lynn



Thompson, Cindy McGinnis, Don Smith, David Coutchie, John Travers, Jeni Hopkins, Niki Kiruki, Jodie Garton, Jon Risdal and Hunter Lauf, as well as our staff, volunteers, and Club Blue members who all worked hard to make the night possible!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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BGCS COMES TO MARSHFIELD

Following a shift to a four-day school week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield began providing programming on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to the Marshfield community!

This new unit location marked the first BGCS location outside of Springfield, and has been open for free to eligible youth since the start

of the August school year. Since the expansion we've been serving 50 members with the hopes to expand to 200 in the future. None of this would have been possible without our donors!

"We exist to provide equitable access to opportunity for the kids who need us most," said BGCS CEO Brandy Harris. "We are so thankful for the opportunity to work alongside the Marshfield community to ensure a safe, positive, engaging place for kids."



BRINGING A TEEN CENTER TO SPRINGFIELD

The Risdal Family Center For Great Futures is scheduled to open doors along Grant Avenue Parkway in 2024. While the project was only launched publicly this year, Jon Risdal said it's been a long time coming.

"A teen center has been on our list for probably the last 15 years, and I think now is the time to build this teen center," Jon said.

A long-time board member for BGCS and contributor to the Clubs for over 25 years, making this teen center a reality may be Jon's greatest contribution to the Clubs yet.

In Summer 2022, a Capital Campaign for the center was announced, and fundraising began to raise the \$12 million needed to make this center a reality.

Currently, Springfield's availability for teens who are in need of a safe space to go after school aren't being met.

While BGCS is already one of the only after-school care providers that intentionally serves teens in the area, opening a dedicated space exclusive to middle and high school youth is a high priority.

"I think it's very important to keep the kids on-track to have a future," Jon said. "If we get the kids, and get them a job, their chances of success skyrockets. The whole city, town, the whole country benefits."

The Risdal Family Center for Great Futures is anticipated to serve over 1,000 teen club members across the area, improving grades, attendance and social and emotional skills along the way. Key partnerships and support from other local organizations like FosterAdopt Connect, the eFactory, O'Reilly Hospitality Management will be elevating the support teens can find to another level.

DHTC Development LLC will also be opening an affordable 41-unit housing complex next to the teen center to provide further resources and access to teens in need.

"Teens are in a very tense situation going from high school into adulthood, and I think we can assist them in doing that," Jon said.

Construction of the teen center is anticipated to kick off in early 2023. For more information or to donate, please visit bgclubspringfield.org/teen-center





STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Accountable

Sa

Ms. Samantha

Ms. Samantha says embodying accountability is essential to her job, whether that be checking in on records or following up with others to ensure everything is operating correctly.

Ms. Samantha said her favorite part of working at BGCS is getting to help out with youth sports.

"I prefer the littles because they're so cute and they just bumble around. They try so hard and they're so sweet."

Ms. Samantha's favorite memory working for the Club stems from helping one girl on a basketball team.

"She refused to go on the court unless I was holding her hand, so I'm out there running, baby-steps back and forth down the court, because she refused to play or be out there unless I was holding her hand."

Being there for club members, on and off the court, is just one way Ms. Samantha stays accountable.

Intentional

Mr. Drew



employment with another Club location.



"Being that light in a valley that's so dark for so many young people, our kids go through so much."

For Mr. Drew, his favorite aspect of working at BGCS is helping members to achieve their goals. He said helping members with a goal or mission until they're able to accomplish it is a rewarding aspect of the job.

"A lot of times members don't have that support until they come to the Club."

Our mission: to enable all young people, reach their full potential as productive,

STAFF WHO C O R SHOW OUR

Adaptable



she helps BGCS by always bringing adaptability to her day-to-day life, always striving to be a team player and help out as often as possible. Especially when it comes to helping club members.

"Working with the kids one-on-one, seeing it happen in person has that reward, the feeling when you've been working with a child on certain things and they make that breakthrough. It's very rewarding."

The best part of working with BGCS? Getting to see the positive difference she brings to member's lives come full-circle.

"Sometimes the kids can surprise you!"

VALUES **Altruistic**



BGCS since 2003, and involved with the Clubs nationwide since he was around 6 years old.

One of his favorite parts of working for the Clubs is entertaining members and ensuring everyone is having a joyful time.

Mr. Jeff said he tries to be altruistic in how he serves the clubs by always making an effort to lead by example and helping others.

"You lead by example, you wouldn't ask people to do something you're not willing to do, you get in and you do it yourself," Mr. Jeff said. "That's what really matters."

especially those who need us most, to caring, responsible citizens.

MEMBER-CENTERED

Ha

ms. Hannah

Ms. Hannah has been with BGCS for seven years and a Program Director at the Fremont Unit since 2019.

Ms. Hannah approaches being

member-centered by always putting members first. No matter how hard the day, when she comes into the clubs she focuses on supporting the kids.

"The kids are by far my favorite thing about working at the club."

Ms. Hannah said she values connecting with club members above all else, prioritizing building a relationship with them and helping members through whatever struggles they're facing.

One key experience at BGCS she holds on to is connecting with members from Saudi Arabia, helping them to navigate cultural differences and feel welcomed.

"I'm not the same person I was before I met them. It literally changed the person that I am today."

RELEVANT



Ms. Shonte strives to make sure herself and her unit provide care to every member and family, focusing on always being open and ready to



communicate about what needs they may have. Whether that be access to technology or access to emotional support.

"I think that's really important," Ms. Shonte said. "It's the best way to be effective in what we're doing every day."

Her favorite aspect of working for the Clubs comes from the relationships she's been able to build with the members and those families.

An employee with BGCS since 2021, she said her most memorable experience stemmed from an exhausting but fun night of buying gifts for members last holiday season, buying around 50 members \$100-worth of presents each thanks to a Sam's Club and Kevin Hart sponsorship.

"It was really cool and it's something that my staff will remember."

While sometimes the work can be exhausting, Ms. Shonte said the impact makes it all worth it.

"The connections you build, realizing the impact you have on kids and their lives for the long run; seeing them grow is really, really cool!"

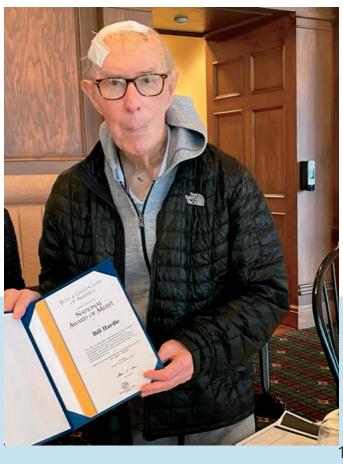
NATIONAL AWARD OF MERIT

In recognition of 52 years of service, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield was fortunate to present Bill Hardie with the National Award of Merit!

This award is presented to individuals outside of Boys & Girls Clubs who've provided outstanding support to a Club or to the Movement.

We're thankful to Bill for his longstanding and continual support of the Clubs and our mission!







Whataburger has partnered with BGCS on multiple occasions, including holding a food truck event which fed around 400 boys and girls across club locations in Springfield, and has continued to support the Club through Youth of the Year, Back to School, Day of Kids Festival, and much more.

Our partnership with Whataburger comes as part of their Feeding Student Success initiative. This charitable pillar focuses on supporting students at all levels of their education, to help them achieve their goals through scholarships, community philanthropy, mentorship programs and supporting organizations that fight food insecurities.









"Whataburger is honored to be partnering with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, a great organization that does so much for the children of Springfield!"

To learn more about program sponsorships please visit our website at bgclubspringfield.org

OF CLUB BLUE



Club Blue, the Young Professionals
Network focused on supporting the
mission of BGCS, is an organization full
of dreamers, believers, and champions
for children. With a mission-centric
objective, Club Blue members have
spent the past three years collaborating
and promoting ways that our community
of young professionals can rally around
Springfield's youth, especially those who
need us most.

Springfield is a transformative place for young people, of all ages, to have a voice in what the future should be.

As the Clubs continue to pave the way for innovative ideas such as the Teen Center and collaborative approaches to serving kids such as the Marshfield unit, Club Blue has found its opportunity to make a difference.

Peyton Andrews, President of Club Blue shared, "This organization is unique in that it provides young professionals with first-hand opportunities to connect the





Club's mission with their personal passions. We get to have a hand in dreaming for the future of our community, and that is something we are proud to be a part of."

As our young professionals' organization wraps up another year of community service and mission fulfillment, Club Blue is dreaming of the next generation. "The energy of our group has been and will always be focused on serving kids," said Tori Reaves, Vice President of Club Blue.

"As we think of what's next, we will stay energized about the opportunities, vocal about the endless possibilities, and proud champions for kids in our community."

Interested in joining Club Blue? Learn more on our website: bgclubspringfield.org/get-involved/ioin

We're thankful for our sponsors



































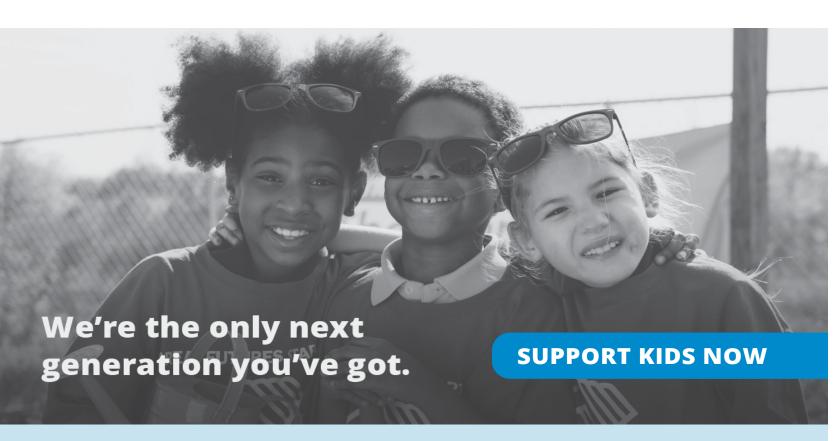


The Hatch Foundation









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