

WINTER 2023

CLUB CONNECTION



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As our 30th Anniversary year winds down, it's tempting to devote this space to reflection. I could talk about what a wonderful year it has been and go on to outline how in fact it has been a wonderful 30 years of helping children in our community reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. If you don't mind, I'd rather talk about the future. After all, building great futures is our business!

This year, much work has been done to lay the foundation for an incredibly bright future: for our members, for our Club, and for our community. We have taken great strides in The Future is Me Campaign, which will help us expand our reach and increase our support for the kids in our community. We are so excited about all the amazing possibilities that the new building will provide for our members.

I'm also happy to share that we have several new members of our BGCBN team that make me feel excited about what is on the horizon for our Club. We have a team of amazing, passionate, dedicated, and experienced professionals, who are a pillar of strength that will help bring our vision for the future of our community to reality.

As we celebrate all that brings hope and light into our lives this season, especially our faith, our family, and our friends, I want you to know how much we appreciate and celebrate you. I believe providing hope is the core of our mission. I sincerely thank you for all you do to provide hope for our kids and families at the Boys & Girls Club. From our family to yours, we wish you all a happy holiday season and a blessed new year!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ELIZABETH HOLTZ, COO

Liz joined the BGCBN team in August as Chief Operating Officer. Prior to starting at BGCBN, Liz served in education as a Physical Education teacher and coach, then as the Assistant Principal at Oakdale Elementary School, and most recently, the Principal at Oakdale for four years before joining BGCBN.

Her professional career has always been motivated by helping and serving those in her community, specifically those who face challenges related to living in low-income settings. She is passionate about supporting individuals in recognizing their worth and excelling in areas they have been gifted.

Liz is married to her husband, Brandon, and they have a two-year-old named Baker. Liz's priorities outside of her work day include time with family and friends on the golf course, cheering for the Packers and Phillies, working out, photography, gardening, and her faith.



Save the Date!
21st Annual Golf Outing
Friday, June 16th

THE FUTURE IS ME



Our comprehensive campaign to build an amazing new space for our youth is underway, and we are excited to report that we have already raised \$5 million toward our goal.

Through The Future is Me Campaign, we will build a 55,000 square foot Clubhouse to more than double our capacity and provide new opportunities and experiences for more youth in our community, beyond our growing waiting list of more than 100 youth. This Clubhouse will contain classrooms to support academic success, private space for counseling and mental health services, a gymnasium, a teaching kitchen for healthy meals and culinary training, spaces to practice the arts, theatre, and music, as well as a dedicated teen space to focus on workforce readiness and life skills development. We also plan to feature a community room to offer our partners a space to serve Bloomington-Normal residents.

Best of all, our new Clubhouse will be located just down the street from our current facility. We are dedicated to remaining on the west side of town, where the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal has called home for our first 30 years.

Interested in learning more about The Future Is Me campaign? We'd love to talk further! Reach out to Tony Morstatter at tmorstatter@bgcbn.org. Thank you!



BE GREAT BREAKFAST

Over 800 of you joined us for our Be Great Breakfast on December 14th to celebrate our 30-year anniversary! Several of our alum, kids, staff, and community members shared testimonials on what the Club has meant to them over the years.

An event like the Be Great Breakfast requires so much support from our community. We would like to thank our committee and all of those who made it possible. We would like to send out a special thanks to our Movement Builder Sponsors: Commerce Bank and Kohl's.

All of our loyal supporters and many new supporters attended our Be Great Breakfast and made a commitment to partner with us to ring in a very promising new year for the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal, providing hope that every young person has an equitable opportunity for a great future!

Thank you so much for your support, Happy New Year!



Did you miss the Be Great Breakfast?
Make a donation today by scanning this QR Code!
Thank you so much for your support!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



We would like to recognize an incredible staff member who has spent numerous hours this holiday season ensuring that children and families have a little extra joy and cheer as they celebrate the holidays with their loved ones. Leslie Adams, our Family & Volunteer Coordinator at BGCBN, has not only coordinated dozens of volunteer opportunities over the past several months, but she has likewise organized BGCBN's Family Fright Night, Feast of Giving Family Night, and Family Holiday Shopping Spree!

Bringing together these events takes a tremendous amount of time and attention to detail, and Leslie's commitment to serving families has been a bright light at the Club during each of these events!