

FALL 2023

CLUB CONNECTION



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

THE FUTURE IS ME

Hello to our friends and supporters!

We're often asked by community members about the status of our capital campaign for a new building. All of our supporters are just as excited as we are to welcome our youth into an amazing new space that they can call their own! We'd like to bring you up to speed on how the campaign is going.

First of all, thank you. So many of you reading this have already played a meaningful role in helping us to reach our vision. Thanks to all of you who have made a gift, made an introduction, volunteered, or spread the word in the community. Without a doubt, we wouldn't be where we are without you.

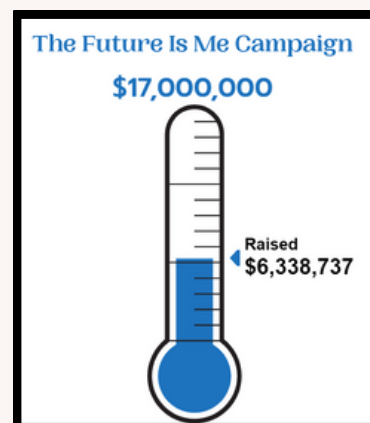
We are still desperately in need of a new building. Safety is our number one priority, and as we work to keep the building safe, we're spending significant time and resources. This week's challenge is a leaky ceiling.

We're also devastated to have a waiting list of 40 families. Those 40 families equal about 100 children who would benefit from the services of the Boys & Girls Club. Those 100 children are unable to be members of our Club due to capacity limitations of our current building. The new building will allow us to serve 600 children! Our wait list would be a thing of the past.

Plus, we're just so excited about all of the new and fun programs we can provide in our new space. The addition of a commercial-grade kitchen, dance studio, music studio, community collaboration rooms, and teen center will be a complete game changer for our Club and for the community as a whole.

We have a \$17 million goal to complete this project. This will provide our youth with the building they deserve, as opposed to an old building retro-fitted to suffice or a space across town. Our members deserve the best! We're 40% of the way there! We plan to break ground when we've achieved 80% of our goal.

We will achieve this goal with the continued support of the community. If you'd like to learn more about how to get involved, please e-mail me at tmorstatter@bgcfn.org or contact Kimberly Scheirer, our Director of Philanthropy at kscheirer@bgcfn.org. Thank you!



Staff Spotlight: Elliott



While Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal (BGCBN) and Illinois State University have a number of partnerships throughout each year, one that plays a major role in the functioning of the organization revolves around the numerous ISU students who come to BGCBN as volunteers to complete service projects and fulfill their diversity hour requirements and observation hours. Some of these volunteers have been so inspired by their experiences at the Club, it often leads to them volunteering beyond their required hours, returning for another semester, or becoming an employee at BGCBN.

One such case can be shared through the story of Elliot Royer, a Secondary Math Education major at ISU. Elliot started as a volunteer as part of his MAT 223 course, but he soon decided to become a Youth Development Professional (YDP) at the Club's Parkside Junior High location. Elliot found that he enjoyed working alongside youth through Club programming and realized his class schedule allowed for him to work at the Club as well, providing him with an employment opportunity while in school.

Elliot shares that “as a volunteer, I did a fraction of what I am doing now. I had very little to do with planning or leading programming and was there mainly for behavior support. Now I've been given a lot more responsibility, including leading programming for 7th and 8th graders at Parkside Junior High School. It hasn't been hard to adapt because I have formed relationships with a lot of the members, and they place more trust in me. I have spent my time working at BGCBN bettering myself as a leader for youth development and gaining relevant skills for my career in education, along with making impactful, positive changes for the members I see.” Currently, the Parkside Junior High location sees an average of 33 members per day, and that number continues to grow. Elliot's decision to become a YDP has played a key role in BGCBN being able to appropriately staff and serve members from all Unit 5 junior highs at this location, ensuring a safe environment for the teens who come to programming each day.

BGCBN is thankful for the continued support of community through ISU partnerships, as the impact of the volunteers who come from ISU greatly impacts the Club's mission of empowering members in all areas of their lives. Furthermore, this impact then reaches the families of the members, allowing the Club to provide services and supports through other ISU partnerships and community partners.

Member Spotlight

LAIKEN!



Laiken is in the 4th grade and loves playing games and coloring with her friends at The Clubhouse. Her favorite color is purple. She is member of the month because she listens and serves as a role model in everything she does. Laiken is also polite and leads with kindness. We are excited to celebrate Laiken!

Upcoming Fundraising Efforts

October: Round Up at the Register at
Green Top Grocery

December 13th: Be Great Breakfast at
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Our Team is Growing!

Please welcome two new members of our Leadership Team: Karla Carey, Human Resources Coordinator and Mandi Gawronski, CCAP Coordinator! Both have hit the ground running and are amazing additions to the team!



All of the youth served at Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal have a dream for a great future.

While that dream looks different for each of these children, Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal is committed to providing them with the tools they need to be productive, caring, responsible citizens and achieve their dreams.

You can help our members create a great future. That's a solid investment.

With your support, our staff and volunteers can provide an amazing Club experience for Teresia, who hopes to be a nail technician, E'mari, who wants to be a police officer, and Keenan, who dreams of being a professional baseball player.

How can you help?

You can make a gift online at <https://bgcbn.org/blue-door-campaign/>. Your support will help our youth get from where they are to where they aspire to be.

Thank you for supporting great futures!

