



Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County

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YEAR END 2016

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Partnership with Jobs and Family Services allows 396 children to attend Summer Camps and Receive School Clothing at No Charge



This past summer, a total of 794 6-18 year-olds attended one of our 7 Summer Camp sites (See "Summer Highlights" for details). Most excitingly, of these nearly 800 campers, we were able to provide our enriching 8-week summer camp free of charge to an unprecedented 462 income-eligible campers, through a partnership with Lorain County Department of Job and Family Services. Jobs and Family Services granted Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to the Clubs to

help TANF-eligible 8-15 year-olds not just with free camp tuition but also to provide clothing to prepare children for the new school year. During a massive clothes distribution, the Club provided 5 pairs of pants, 5 polo shirts, a pair of tennis shoes and a jacket to 396 income-eligible members. We are so pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with Jobs and Family Services to serve the kids in our community that need us most!

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LORAIN COUNTY



Photo Credit Eric Bolzar, Mourning Journal

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Director's Message

This past summer and fall have been a whirlwind of activity at the Clubs. Our growing list of community partners—many of which are highlighted in these pages—have enabled us to expand the services we provide and number of youth we reach. We are especially focused on reaching out to our community's teens as we join forces with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to celebrate the Year of the Teen. This newsletter attempts to capture the flurry of activity over the past several months.

As you read about all of our work and as the holiday season approaches, I hope that you will consider supporting us and Giving the Gift of A Great Future!

Sincerely,

Mike Conibear, Executive Director

Our Mission

To inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Rosetta Shepherd Wins Boys & Girls Clubs State Youth of the Year

We are thrilled that long-time Elyria Club member Rosetta Shepherd won the 2016 State Youth of the Year. In addition to her dedication to the Club, Ms. Shepherd has been involved with several groups and clubs including: Elyria High Junior Reserves Officers Training Corps (JROTC); Elyria High School Dance Team; Minority Achievement Committee Scholar Program; National Honor Society; Elyria High Link Crew; Elyria Teen Achieving Success; Pathways; Elyria High Student Council; Elyria High Senior Committee; Elyria High Track Team and Elyria High Drill Team.

Furthermore, Ms. Shepherd has been recognized and has received awards and honors for her success in academics, community involvement, and athletic activities from National, State, County, City and School organizations including: National Honor Society Membership Award, High Honor Roll Award, Lorain County Alliance of Black School Educators Honor, Varsity Letter, Junior Varsity Letter, Presidential Fitness Award, Perfect Attendance, and Daughters of the Revolution Medal. Ms. Shepherd's commitments and service to her community and Club include: Ohio State Special Olympics; the Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-A-Child Program; Service Learning Teacher Aide; City and County Food Banks; Friendship Animal Protective League; Boys & Girls Club member mentoring and tutoring; and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 food service.

Ms. Shepherd began attending Lorain County Community College in the fall of 2016. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Education concentrating in Middle Childhood Education. Rosetta's career goal is to become a 4th grade teacher.

Ms. Shepherd exemplifies the very best of Boys & Girls Clubs. We are so honored to have her representing us throughout the state and region. Congratulations Rosetta! Your future students will be lucky to have you as a teacher!



“It was my privilege today to honor Rosetta Shepherd from Elyria, Ohio as the 2016 Ohio Youth of the Year from the Ohio Boys and Girls Club. Rosetta was chosen due to her three-minute speech about her personal life and how the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County has affected her over the course of her 10-year membership. She was also selected due to recommendations from teachers, club staff and mentors, as well as her three essays on her “Club Experience”, “My Vision of America’s Youth” and “My Personal Brand.” She goes on to a regional competition in Chicago in July. Congratulations, Rosetta!”

— State Senator Nathan Manning,
May 26, 2016

Club Food Program Gains New Food Truck Thanks to Walmart



You may have noticed a new vehicle traveling our County's roads. Thanks to a generous gift from Walmart's State Giving Program, our Food Program now has a dedicated food truck equipped both with warming ovens to keep meals hot and refrigeration to keep milk and other items cold. The Club transports an average of 800 hot suppers every day after school and 575 lunches/250 breakfasts every day that Summer Camp is in session. Prior to acquiring this truck, the Clubs used our regular passenger vans to transport meals throughout the County. Our passenger vans are now freed up to transport kids to Clubs, field trips or other enrichment experiences. Thank you Walmart for this fabulous new addition to our Food Program!



Local Artists and Oberlin Gallery Enhance Club's Art Program

This fall, our Community Arts Outreach Initiative is entering its fifth year of programming. Over these past five years, due to generous support from Weikart and Fowler Family Foundations, we have been extremely fortunate to be able to enrich Club members' artistic experiences. Guided by board-certified Art Therapist Randall James, the program introduces club members to art materials and processes and uses those arts to develop positive social interactions. In June, young artists were able to share their artistic accomplishments with the public through a show at the Richard D. Baron Gallery.

In addition, this summer the CAOI included an "Artist in Residence" component in which local artists visited Clubs to teach new art media and methods to Club members.

Three local professional artists — a ceramicist, a puppet-maker, and a caricaturist—each provided Club members with a one-week immersion into their particular form of artistic expression.

Program highlights included:

- Digging for clay in the soil on Desich Family Campus grounds, processing it using buckets, sieves and other equipment, and firing their pieces in the same hole from which they had dug the original clay (with ceramicist, John Miyazawa)
- Creating puppets and assorted props and then learning associated puppet movement and expression skills in order to conduct mini-performances of both adapted and invented stories and songs (with Margaret Brock, puppet maker)
- Learning the basics of caricature-making and receiving a personal caricature to take home (Joseph Toothman, caricaturist).



Club Continues 21st Century Learning Centers at 6 Schools and Opens 2 More

Thanks to a new award from Ohio Department of Education we are now delivering 21st Century programming at General Johnnie Wilson Middle and Lorain High Schools during this 2016-17 school year. Meanwhile, we are continuing to implement our literacy-focused 21st Century Learning Center Program at Garfield, Washington, Admiral King, Larkmoor, Frank Jacinto and Toni Morrison Elementary Schools within Lorain City School District.

Last year's program results at these 6 elementary schools were impressive. On average, 87% of frequently attending 21st century participants (those that attended

after school 90 days or more) improved their scores on standardized math assessments (NWEA MAP for kindergarten through 3rd grade; ProCore for 4th-6th graders) by at least 5% between the fall and spring assessment. Similarly, 79% of frequently attending 21st Century participants improved their reading score by at least 5%. Indeed, the average growth for 21st Century students was 42% in math and 20% in reading!

This program would not be possible without our wonderful partnership with Lorain City Schools. We look forward to another year of academic success!

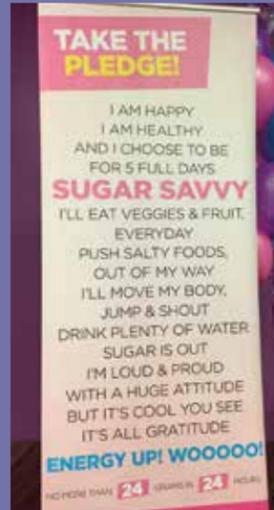




Club Members Become “Sugar Savvy”

Beginning in the summer of 2016 and continuing into this school year, Club members have been learning about the high concentration of sugar in the foods we eat and its negative health impacts through Energy Up! Voltage Approved. An innovative nutrition and fitness program rooted in self-esteem building, Energy Up! addresses obesity within the framework of food addiction (specifically sugar, salt and fat). Created by celebrity lifestyle and fitness coach Kathie Dolgin (a.k.a. “High Voltage”), Energy Up! instills knowledge of nutrition, regular exercise, positive self-views and avoidance of “trigger foods” to combat unhealthy behaviors that can lead to obesity. Over the past 15 years, High Voltage has adapted the principles and techniques she used to help her celebrity clients and successfully applied them toward helping low-income, disadvantaged teen girls. By using fun, film, music, exercise, games, give-aways, and prizes, Energy Up! transforms what is usually a difficult ordeal, into a unique, entertaining experience.

The Club’s Energy Up! program begins with a Kick Off Party, which includes dance, food tastings, and workout activities and culminates with an opportunity for Club members to take the Sugar Savvy Pledge—the first step to becoming Sugar Savvy. It also includes a “Sugar Shock” presentation, designed to show how much sugar is in various products, particularly beverages. High Voltage selected Boys & Girls of Lorain County to implement her Energy Up! intervention not only because we serve a large number of disadvantaged teen girls (her target audience) but also because the Head Chef of our Food Program, which serves a hot meal every day after school and during the summer, is enthusiastic about collaborating with the Energy Up! program in developing some new “Voltage approved” low sugar, fat and salt recipes that can be served to Club members.



SPARK Enters Fourth Year in Lorain Schools



This fall, SPARK (Spheres of Proud Achievement in Reading for Kids) tutors are welcoming back students at Washington and Larkmoor Elementary Schools. SPARK is an innovative evidence-based early literacy program that targets students in kindergarten through third grade who struggle with reading proficiency for intensive, individual tutoring. Each SPARK participant receives three half-hour lessons every week during the school day from a dedicated tutor.

In addition to the excitement and love of learning that SPARK “ignites” in participants, it works. During the 2015-16 school year, SPARK students demonstrated 29% greater gains

assessments (NWEA-MAP) than non-SPARK students. An independent report conducted by Lorain City Schools found that the data “supports the program’s goal of improving reading performance for struggling readers. Significant to note are the overall gains of grade three SPARK students who are subject to Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee.”

We are delighted to have the privilege to once again be able to “spark” learning through this excellent intervention!

LOCATIONS OBERLIN, ELYRIA AND LORAIN

Elyria Community Center
1821 Middle Ave 44035

Desich Family Campus
4111 Pearl Ave 44055

Oberlin
218 N Pleasant 44074

Southside Gardens
3010 Vine Ave 44055

Westview Terrace
2218 W 24th St 44052

Wilkes Villa
116 White Court 44035

HIGH SCHOOL SITES

Lorain High School
2270 E 42nd St

MIDDLE SCHOOL SITES

General Johnnie Wilson
2700 Washington Ave

Stevan Dohanos (Community Connectors site)
1625 E 32nd St

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES

Admiral King
720 Washington Ave

Frank Jacinto
2515 Marshall Ave

Larkmoor
1201 Nebraska Ave

Washington
1025 W 23rd St

Garfield
200 W 31st St

Toni Morrison
1830 W. 40th St

Desich Family Campus Dedication

On July 12th Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County hosted a dedication of our 4111 Pearl Avenue location, formerly known as the Oakwood Club, renaming it the Desich Family Campus in order to honor the Desich family's donations to the program. The Desich family donated the 16-acre Pearl Street property to the Club in 2008. Rich Desich has actively served on the Club's Board for many years.

Many elected officials and other community leaders, including Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer, Lorain Police Chief Cel Rivera, Lorain County Prosecutor Dennis Will, and Lorain City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeff Graham, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attorney General DeWine's awarding of mortgage settlement funds to the Club was instrumental to initial demolition and construction needed to make the property and existing buildings usable to the Club and its members.

While speaking to Club kids gathered for the ceremony, Lorain businessman Dick Desich surprised all in attendance with an announcement that he would be setting up a fund to pay the tuition for 10 Club members to attend Lorain County Community College upon completion of high school with at least a C average.

The Club thanks Mr. Desich and the entire Desich family for their tremendous generosity in the donation of the Pearl Street property and this newly announced college scholarship. Through these acts they have demonstrated the value they place on the education and wellbeing of our youngest citizens.



Ribbon Cutting

Photo Credit: Eric Bozar, Mourning Journal



Lorain businessman and property donor Dick Desich

Photo Credit: Eric Bozar, Mourning Journal



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

Photo Credit: Eric Bozar, Mourning Journal

Future Community Kitchen at Desich Family Campus

Soon after receiving the donated Pearl Avenue property from the Desich family, we began envisioning a "Community Kitchen" in the back of the Desich Family Campus building. Such a facility, modeled after Bowling Green's Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen (NOCK), would enable small, local entrepreneurs to process and sell prepared foods without incurring the exorbitant cost of creating a kitchen space that is compliant with local health department and Ohio Department of Agriculture regulations.

Now, thanks to a \$175,000 Ohio Capital Fund award to Clubs in partnership with Lorain County Community College, we will not only be able to construct this Community Kitchen, but will also be able to provide a venue for Club teens, Club members' families, and other community members to explore the culinary arts through a partnership with Lorain County Community College's Culinary Arts Program.

As at NOCK, we plan to provide educational programs at our Community Kitchen that would show participants how to establish a commercially viable food business. Other possible educational offerings include guidance

on food packaging options, sourcing of ingredients, and food labeling. We also plan to build a community garden right outside the kitchen so that kids can learn to plant, maintain and harvest produce that can be processed in the kitchen.

"These funds will be invaluable to fulfilling the missions of our Food Program, Teen Program and the Desich Family Campus," says Executive Director Mike Conibear. "Our Food Program prevents childhood hunger by serving hot nutritious meals to low-income children throughout the year, our Teen Program aspires to prepare teens for post-secondary school success and the Desich Family Campus aims to serve the needs of all South Lorain residents and become an economic driver in the region."

We would like to express our gratitude to our state elected officials—Senator Gayle Manning, Representative Dan Ramos, and Senator Nathan Manning—for their support of this project and their overall support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County.

The Year of the Teen

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has designated 2016 as the Year of the Teen, stepping up teen outreach to help serve those that can often benefit most from Club programming. During this Year of the Teen, we in Lorain County have increased our teen programming. This year's teen initiatives include:

- Community Connectors mentoring and career exploration program at Lorain High and General Johnnie Wilson Middle. This year, our business partners, which will be providing workplace visits, job shadows, and career mentoring opportunities, are Lorain County Metro Parks, Lorain County Community College, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, and the Lorain Morning Journal.
- 21st Century Learning Center's literacy-focused program at Lorain High and General Johnnie Wilson Middle.
- Extended teen hours every Saturday from 11 to 4 at Desich Family Campus. Among many other activities, teens at the Desich site now have the opportunity to engage in music production as part of the Club's MusicMakers program (funded by Best Buy) and play basketball on our new VersaCourt thanks to City of Lorain Community Development Block Grant funds.
- Teen programming at Elyria Parks and Recreation's South Rec facility (bussed from Elyria Club every day after school) thanks to support from City of Elyria Community Block Grant funds.

Summer Highlights

It is impossible to condense our 8-week “Summer of Oz” into such a small space, as each day was jam-packed with opportunities for growth and fun. As with all we do at the Club, the breadth of programming provided at our Summer Camp was made possible by all of the wonderful people and organizations in our community who contribute each and every day to making a difference in Club members’ lives.



Nature Exploration.

As in past years, we were able to send 100 6-12 year-olds to Common Ground’s Earth Camp for a week of hiking, games, arts and crafts, music, swimming, and nature exploration, thanks to specific funding from Nord Family Foundation. In addition, throughout the summer, Lorain County Metro Parks both came to all of our Clubs to conduct various science/nature activities and hosted summer camp members at their parks (including swimming pools). Club members had an opportunity to visit LCMP Cascade Park, Splash Zone, Mercy Recreation & Sports Center Pool and Splash Pad located at the LCMP Holstein Reservation.

Health and Wellness.

Ohio State Extension conducted its SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education) Program, a nutrition education and obesity prevention program for low-income children, Lorain County Drug and Alcohol Services provided their drug and alcohol prevention curriculum, and High Voltage delivered her Sugar Savvy anti-obesity program (see Article p. 6).

Education and Career Development.

The Summer of Oz camp incorporated lots of literacy-rich “Summer Brain Gain” activities along with a career exploration component. In addition, all Clubs either visited local libraries or local libraries came to Clubs, enabling Club members to borrow books throughout the summer and foster consistent reading.

Sports and Fitness.

Kids had a chance to swim weekly throughout the Camp: Lorain-based Clubs swam at Lorain City Parks and Recreation pools, Elyria Club swam at Elyria Parks and Rec, and Oberlin Club swam at Splash Zone. In addition, Club members had the opportunity to frequently visit Lost Nation West Sports Complex in Lorain to play soccer, flag football, basketball, and use their batting cages.

Gardening.

Master Gardner, Shelly Hill, delivered her Grow With Me Garden program, which helped Club children plant, harvest and prepare produce in their own community gardens while teaching them about health and nutrition. The program was held at Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority’s Westview Terrace, Southside Gardens and Wilkes Villa. Desich Family Campus Club members collaborated with Mercy Medical Center on a gardening and healthy eating project.

The Arts.

Music and video production specialist, Rick DeWitt, worked with Desich Family Campus teens on a video challenge in which they competed against Clubs from Cleveland and Akron areas. Art Therapist Randall James conducted his Community Arts Outreach Initiative, which included three professional “Artists in Residence,” a ceramicist, a caricaturist, and a puppeteer (See p. 5 for details)

Field Trips.

Club members attended Regal Cinemas movies weekly. In addition, the Club partnered with Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Cleveland Zoo, Cleveland Art Museum and Cleveland Indians to provide field trips for Club Campers during this summer, courtesy of Tickets for Kids.



Photo Credit: Eric Bolzar



Another Beautiful Great Lakes Gathering

On August 20th we celebrated our 3rd Annual Great Lakes Gathering to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County at Sunset Terrace at Lakeview, hosting 180 guests and raising more than \$40,000 for the Club. Thanks to all of our guests, sponsors and in-kind donors for making it such a wonderful and successful evening!

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LORAIN COUNTY

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Fax: 440-277-0333

INVESTING IN
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS,
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www.bgcloraincounty.org

Holiday Giving

Please consider donating toys, monies and/or food items to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lorain County this Holiday season.

If interested, please contact Sandi Domain at 216-287-1888 for more information.

