

# Cyberattack targets finances for Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains - Yankton Club

- *No client or donor data was compromised*
- *Programming will continue uninterrupted*
- *Organization will use experience to build digital safety program for children and families*

**YANKTON, SD (May 14, 2026)** - An AI-powered cyberattack on Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains in April targeted the group's Yankton Club, resulting in a loss of \$200,000. The attack did not compromise personal or financial data of employees, youth, families or donors.

An unidentified person or group conducted what is known as "deepfake fraud" to access one of the organization's bank accounts. The cyberattackers acquired login information using tactics including AI-voice cloning, spoofing phone numbers and manipulating transaction details.

"We are heartbroken that funds from our generous donors, meant to improve the lives of children, were stolen and can't be used as they were intended," said Jody Hernandez, CEO of Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains. "Thankfully, we have the flexibility to manage this loss, and there will be no interruption to our programming, facilities or staff."

The affected funds came from a reserve account used for things like building maintenance and emergency needs of the Yankton Club. It does not include any recent donations. Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains uses a third-party vendor to manage credit card information for fund drives, such as the current raffle event. Those fundraising efforts were also not a part of the cyberattack.

Boys & Girls Club leadership was made aware of the theft on May 1. The theft was discovered when the person or group made a second attempt to withdraw funds. The transaction was flagged by First Dakota National Bank in Yankton, which locked down the account.

Upon learning of the theft, Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains contacted local law enforcement and the FBI. The incident remains under investigation. The organization enlisted a

cybersecurity group to assess the scope of the attack and ensure no additional threats remained. Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains has also contracted with an outside IT company to bolster internal technology capabilities.

Moving forward, the organization has updated its internal security and policies to better protect against new forms of cybercrime. In addition, it plans to make digital safety a part of education programming for children and families, while still embracing the benefits and opportunities AI provides.

“Unfortunately, we hear more and more about attacks on organizations and individuals around the world. The threats of identity theft, fraud, sextortion and more are larger than ever,” Hernandez said. “We hope to turn this into an opportunity to prevent similar incidents for the people we serve in South Dakota communities.”

### **Press availability**

Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains CEO will answer any additional questions in a virtual press availability from Yankton at 1 p.m. Please register [here](#).

Participants will include

- CEO Jody Hernandez
- Board Member Reece Kurtenbach

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