



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WAYNE COUNTY



2023 Summer NEWSLETTER



✦ Club Highlights & Happenings

The Club Opens New, Renovated Spaces



This summer we celebrated the opening of The CLUB Teen Center, the West End Bank Charitable Foundation Professional Development & Training Center, and renovations to the existing Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation Boys & Girls Club with an open house and ribbon cutting featuring speakers **Barbara Gulick** from the **Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation**, **Mayor Dave Snow**, **John Hitch** from the **West End Charitable Foundation**, and **Shawntel Baker** from the **Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce**. The three facilities are located on West Main Street and represent over \$300,000 in building improvements.

The CLUB Teen Center, located at 1990 West Main Street, features gaming areas, computers, and lounge space for Boys & Girls Club members ages 13-18.

The creation of this facility was made possible through contributions from the **Wayne County Foundation**, **Mayer Management**, and the **Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation**.

“With a priority to serve and retain more teens, we knew we needed a more appealing space,” **BGCWC Chief Executive Officer Alicia Painter** commented during the ribbon cutting. “Teens want their own place where they can engage with their peers.”

The West End Bank Charitable Foundation Professional Development & Training Center, also located at 1990 West Main Street, is an administrative facility designed to host training opportunities and meetings for BGCWC’s 85 staff members. Renovations to this space were made possible by support from **West End Bank Charitable Foundation**.

Serving over 300 youth annually, the Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation Boys & Girls Club underwent renovations to create a STEAM room, where youth can focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and math, and developed new space for a senior gamesroom to serve members ages 10-12. This Club, located at 1900 West Main Street, was opened in 2017 thanks to generous support from the late **Boys & Girls Club Trustee Ron McDaniel**.

“[These facilities] mark the beginning of a new chapter, a milestone that represents investment, growth, and endless possibilities for our children, teens, and staff in Wayne County,” Alicia noted. “We are so grateful for the youth we have the opportunity to serve, the dedicated staff on our team, and the ongoing support of our Board of Directors, Trustees, community partners, and donors. Great things happen when committed and passionate people come together.”



Summer Programs Educate and Engage Youth

Scavenger hunts, science experiments, art projects, and water games: it's all part of the summer Club experience at BGCWC! Members chose between a variety of programs and activities at our Jeffers, McDaniel, and First Bank Units this summer as well as all-day outdoor adventures at Camp Guy!

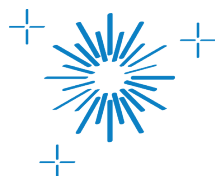
STEAM members explored their world through science, art, and imaginative play. They created slimy experiments as mad scientists, explored the world of tech as engineers, and saved the Club as superheroes! Members who couldn't get enough playtime joined our GameTime program for Club olympics, game shows, and water games. Our ClubFit members stayed active all summer long with backyard games, dance offs, and obstacle courses.

Members ages 10 and up joined our unique LEAD program where they learned to care for the environment, explored cultures through music, and celebrated Halloween in July for a week straight!

Of course, it's just not summer without Camp Guy! Our 168-acre facility on the Whitewater River allowed members to experience all kinds of outdoor activities like creek walks, fishing, and swimming. These diverse, fun, and enriching activities gave youth memorable experiences that can inspire them for life.

Many of the Club's summer learning opportunities are part of our ongoing **Project Learn** program and made possible through various partners and support from the **United Way of the Whitewater Valley** and **The Centerpoint/Vectren Foundation**. During the summer, thanks to support from the **Indiana Department of Health** and **The Michael Phelps Foundation** our members were able to experience additional programming activities around improving well-being and how nature can play a part in that.

Thank you to our staff for another safe and fun summer at the Club!





Celebrations & Awards

BGCWC Staff Enjoy a Day at the Ballpark



BGCWC staff and their families had the fantastic opportunity to catch the Cincinnati Reds at a home game! Staff received admission and food vouchers as a thank-you for their on-going commitment to serving our kids and as part of the Club's dedication to becoming an employer of choice in Wayne County. We had an amazing time bonding as a team, outside of the daily work of Club life, and look forward to many more opportunities to come. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team of youth development professionals, visit bgcrichmond.org/jobs for openings and opportunities.

Boys & Girls Club Week Spotlights Club Life

Did you know that the last week of June is **National Boys & Girls Club Week**? Our members shared their Club spirit with themed days dedicated to great moments, getting outdoors, and positive mental health.

BGCWC Board Members Sarah Mitchell, Eldon Harzman, Tracie Robinson, and John Hitch joined us to help our members celebrate the start of National Boys & Girls Club Week with a special treat!



The Club Receives Athena Award for Leadership

We are excited and honored to receive the **2023 Wayne County Athena Organizational Leadership Award!** Wayne County Athena added this award in 2022 to recognize “businesses or organizations, in the profit or non-profit sectors – who create an organizational culture that encourages women employees to achieve their full leadership potential or gives back to the larger community of women and girls by providing and/or supporting leadership development opportunities and initiatives.” Last year’s recipient was the **Girls Scouts of Wayne County Service Unit**.

We are excited and honored to be recognized as a leading organization supporting women’s potential. Athena has honored members of our leadership in the past including **Board President Tracie Robinson**, **Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Feaster**, and the late **Stacey Steele**. Thank you to **Stamm Koechlein Family Foundation President and BGCWC Board Member Monica Koechlein** for nominating our organization!



Brighter Path Brings Marvelous Minis to Members



BGCWC had a very special visitor this summer: The marvelous **Buzz**, a traveling miniature therapy horse from our friends at **Brighter Path Inc.!** In addition to spreading love and cheer, Buzz taught Club members about the importance of mental health and coping strategies.

Journey Yoga Challenges Members Physically & Mentally



Our Friends from **Journey Yoga Studio** visited our Clubs this summer and helped us promote mindfulness, relaxation, and new experiences for our members. We are so grateful for community partners who help us do whatever it takes for the youth of Wayne County!

Belden Encourages Summer STEAM Education



Great futures are made possible by great partnerships! Our friends Bryan and Dave from **Belden Inc.** visited with our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) members and taught them about electricity and engineering. Members built homopolar motors and experimented with electricity and all the possibilities of wire. Belden then sponsored a field trip to **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis** for our STEAM members. Members (and staff!) had an amazing day learning, playing, and exploring!



Henny Penny Helps with Hygiene



Here's a big BGCWC thank you to our friend **Victor Carmona** of **Henny Penny** for donating hygiene products for our members!



Menasha Gives to Great Futures



Thank you to our friends at **Menasha Packaging** for their donation to the Club! Our local branch has been a longtime supporter and partner and we appreciate their ongoing support.

Dot Supports Local Youth With Funds & Food



Thank you to our friends at **Dot Foods** for their \$2,500 contribution to the Club! Dot Foods also supports the Club throughout the year with food donations, and they invited Club members to get a sneak peak of their warehouse and hear about the impressive work Dot Foods does locally and across the country!

Clubs for the Club Raises Record Amount



Thank you to our sponsors—especially our title sponsor **Better Homes & Gardens First Richmond Realty**—and all the wonderful women who came out to our Clubs for the Club golf outing! Together we raised \$30,112, a record amount to support great futures in Wayne County!

Meridian Educates and Entertains Members



Thank you to our friends at **Meridian Health Services** for stopping by our Clubs to talk about brushing teeth and the importance of dental care!

Every Child Can Read Drives Literacy Program



Thank you to **Every Child Can Read** for donating books to our members! Our youth get excited when they hear the bookmobile is at the Club!

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
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**Division of Mental
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