



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WAYNE COUNTY



2023 Winter/Spring NEWSLETTER





Club Highlights & Happenings

Community Trip to see Pacers vs. Grizzlies



Photo courtesy of Leslie Groves, Tandem

Ninety-eight BGCWC members & staff had an amazing opportunity to join a community group of 225 people strong from partner organizations **Future Achievers; Townsend Community Center, Inc.; Girls Inc. of Wayne County; Christian Connectors; The Crystal Dreams Foundation: Stepup Program; RCS Mentoring; and Richmond Family YMCA** to see **Club Alum Desmond Bane** and the **Indiana Pacers**! For many Club members, this was their first time ever seeing a professional game. Thank you to **Richard & Lynne Lake** and **Jamar Wright** who were instrumental in making this happen, as well as **BGCWC Board Member Sarah Mitchell, Wayne County Foundation**, and so many other generous community leaders and businesses for doing whatever it takes for the youth of Wayne County!



Family Nights Connect Club Kids & Adults



Our creative education staff hosted two family nights this semester, inviting the important adults in our members' lives to participate in Club fun with them!

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we hosted a Dr. Seuss themed family literacy night. Each Club created a unique family experience with fun activities like a book swap, scavenger hunt, photo booth, face painting, and snacks! It was great to see members celebrating reading with the important adults in their lives.

During **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**, families were able to participate in activities such as playing emoji emotion match and creating an "engine alert" system, as well as learning about local resources to support children's mental health.

Annual Art Show



Our 2023 Art Show was an amazing display of BGCWC talent! Thank you to our guest judges **Joe Augustin** of **Quaker City Co-Op**, **Claudia Edwards** of **Preble Arts**, **BGCWC Board Member Melissa Vance** of the **Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Lance Crow** of **Richmond Art Museum**, **BGCWC Board Member Amy Dillon** of **Brewer Broadcasting**, and **Jeremy Clark** from **G101.3** for lending their time and discerning eyes!

Take Down Tobacco Day



On **National Take Down Tobacco Day**, members at the McDaniel Unit learned about the effects of smoking and drinking, what's in a cigarette, and how tobacco would affect their lungs. Thank you to Torch Club, our leadership group, for running the different stations!

First Bank Continues Reign as State Champions



Congratulations to our "First Banco" team for defending their title as **Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs' State Kahoot Madness Champions!** This team of intrepid scholars competed against 31 other Boys & Girls Clubs across the state answering trivia questions and won a pizza party for their entire Club!

Tween Night Rocks the Club Experience



Members ages 10-12 had a blast enjoying **Mancino's Pizza** and busting moves during a special Tween Night Glow Dance hosted by Torch Club. Congratulations to members **Mindy R.** and **Jordan H.** for winning coolest moves!



Meet Mika, our 2023 Youth of the Year



We are proud to announce that longtime member **Mika P.** was selected to represent the Club as our 2023 Youth of the Year! Mika is a recent graduate of **Richmond High School** and plans to attend **Indiana Wesleyan University** to study special education in the fall.

“The past twelve years have been long, interesting, and complicated, but I am grateful” Mika reflected. “I am thankful for each Club program that I have participated in and the staff that have pushed me to be the person I am today.”

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club Member can receive. It is the Boys & Girls Club’s signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global, and integrated world economy.

Mika was selected by a panel of judges from a group of seven competitors. She received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Club and advanced to state competition. She will also spend her summer with a 10-week paid internship thanks to our friends at **Blue Buffalo!**

Speeches & Scholarships at our Spring Spotlight

We were so excited to celebrate the accomplishments of some amazing local teens at our Spring Spotlight! Seven Youth of the Year candidates and four scholarship finalists spoke during the event about their dreams for a great future and the impact the Club had on their lives.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this exciting event, to our title sponsor **VanVleet Insurance Agency**, and to our food sponsor **Warm Glow Candle Company**.

During the event, former Club member **Nathan H.** and **2023 YOY Mika P.** were both awarded the **Jack Reed Memorial Scholarship!**



WIN: Workforce Initiative Network Empowers Teens



This spring marked the launch of our WIN: Workforce Initiative Network funded by **United Way of Whitewater Valley**. Participants learned tips and strategies for applying for jobs, did mock interviews, and participated in job shadowing. Teens who completed program phases received Visa gift cards in addition to their new skills! Thank you to our program partners **Future Achievers** and **Hogg Helps** and the following organizations:



Ahaus Tool & Engineering
Amanda Smith: Realtor
Blue Buffalo
Derek Tiermann: Realtor
DICK'S Sporting Goods
First Bank Richmond
HELP the Animals
Manpower
Primex Plastics
Wayne County Probation Office



Teens Advocate for Indiana Kids at the Statehouse



Thank you to **State Representative & BGCWC Board Member Brad Barrett** and **State Senator Jeff Raatz** for visiting with BGCWC Keystone and Torch Club members during **Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs' Legislative Day** at the State House! Members and community advocates like **BGCWC Board Member Richard Peterson** were able to chat all things Boys & Girls Clubs and advocate for continued funding for our Indiana Kids program. Representative Barrett also took our members into the house chamber as a session was starting, which was a great experience for our teens! Thank you, Representative Barrett and Senator Raatz, for your ongoing support of Boys & Girls Clubs!

Daggy Receives Congressional Honor



U.S. Representative Greg Pence stopped by the Club to present **Ex Officio Executive Director Bruce Daggy** with a very special honor: a Congressional Record! BGCWC is incredibly proud of Bruce's legacy of service and we were excited to share the work we do at the Club with Representative Pence.

Easter Egg Hunt brings Community to the Club



BGCWC hosted our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at our Jeffers and Hagerstown Units on April 1st. Nearly 180 Club and community members stopped by the Clubs for the hunt and Easter-themed activities! Thanks to everyone who donated candy and prizes to our event.

Food Meets Fun at Canstruction



Thanks to our friends at **Ahaus Tool & Engineering** and **United Way of Whitewater Valley** for bringing Canstruction to our Club! Members used real engineering skills to create Minions out of 1,748 canned goods to donate to **Community Food Pantry!**

BGCWC Opens Doors for RCS Students in Need



This was a semester that tested resilience for **Richmond Community Schools** as the district dealt with unexpected water damage and fallout from a local industrial fire. During both events, BGCWC staff stepped up to open our doors to host kids and assist with virtual learning.

The Club Welcomes New Faces in New Places



It's been a busy year already at BGCWC with the creation of a new position and a change in two existing positions. First, we are excited to welcome back a familiar face at the Club. **Larry Young** has returned in the new role of **Director of Teens & Workforce Development**. Larry is a long-time Club member who grew up in Richmond and considered the Club a second home. His new role is responsible for managing and expanding The CLUB Teen Center and ensuring strong programming and opportunities in workforce development for our teens.

"Working with teens gives me the opportunity to create programing that will bridge the gap between what they are not learning at school or at home," Larry notes. "I'm excited to have the opportunity to have a positive impact on the organization and community that has given so much to me and my family."



A new face at BGCWC, **David Limburg** has taken over the role of **COSSAP Prevention Officer**. David's previous experience includes the **Wayne County Sheriff's Office**, where he has served as Deputy since 1996. David also has extensive experience working with youth as a foster parent, coach, scout leader, substitute teacher, and youth group director.

"I enjoy working with kids and making a positive difference and influence in their life," David says.



Finally, after being with the Club just over a year and falling in love with the organization, **Taylor Burkett** is extremely excited to take on the role of **Jeffers Unit Director**. Originally from Jay County, Taylor moved to Wayne County in 2015 to continue her education at IU East, where she received a bachelor's degree.

Taylor says, "I love being able to support my staff and most of all, to do whatever it takes for the kids in our community!"

Jeffers Memorial Golf Outing Raises Funds for the Club

Thank you to all of the players and sponsors who supported the **Jeff Jeffers Memorial Golf Outing** this year and to the family of the late Jeff Jeffers for being our Title Sponsor. All of their support helped us raise nearly \$49,000 from this event!





Board & Staff Achievements

Annual Dinner Celebrates Achievements in 2022



BGCWC celebrated an incredible year doing whatever it takes for the youth of Wayne County and honored several amazing people and groups who made an impact on our organization in 2022 at our Annual Dinner.

Congratulations to the award winners:

Volunteers of the Year: **Earlham College Athletics**

Stacey Steele Service & Devotion Employee of the Year: **Januaree Marshall**

Bob Rosa President's Award: **Sarah Mitchell**

Earl & Kathryn Mayer Award: **Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation**

Rookie Board Member of the Year: **Andy Stover**

Board Member of the Year: **Randy Retter**

Game Changer Award: **Joe Backmeyer**

Richard E. Jeffers Legacy Award: **Mike Nottingham**

Champion of Youth Award: **Richard Peterson**



Moving the Club Forward by Advancing Philanthropy



BGCWC Board Members Monica Koechlein and Jason Troutwine attended our **Boys & Girls Clubs of America Advancing Philanthropy** training in Indianapolis with **Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Feaster** and **Chief Executive Officer Alicia Painter**.

This two-day training focused on learning specific tools and techniques about leadership, case building, and major gift strategies while interacting with Clubs across the state of Indiana.

BGCWC Sweeps Indiana Area Council Awards



Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County was honored to receive four awards during the 2023 Indiana Area Council Meeting. Awardees include **Hall of Fame Inductee Mike Nottingham**, **Indiana Board Member of the Year Richard Peterson**, **Indiana Area Council Liaison Member of the Year Joe Backmeyer**, and **Indiana Most Valuable Program Professional (MVP) Garibaldi Quiroz**. **Youth of the Year Mika P.** performed during the meeting and **Board President Tracie Robinson** presented on board development to other board members across the state. We couldn't be more proud of these amazing individuals and their dedication to the youth of Wayne County!

Connecting to the Movement at National Conference



We had an incredible time at the **Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference!** We spent the week in Orlando, Florida learning even more about the Boys & Girls Club movement and how to continue to make a deep impact on the youth in our community.

We were able to hear from so many inspiring youth and speakers, including **Former Professional Baseball Player Alex Rodriguez**, who grew up as a Club kid, and stated "the lessons and virtues I missed at home I received at the Boys & Girls Club because of the place, the people and the environment."

We could not be more grateful for the commitment from our dedicated board members **Tracie Robinson**, **Jeff Logue**, **Richard Peterson**, and **Andy Stover** who joined our CEO at the Conference.

Taco Bell Grant Fuels Teens' Great Futures



BGCWC received a \$64,960 grant from the **Taco Bell Foundation** and **Mayer Management Inc.** to support our youth! The funds will go toward programs like Teen Nights, Keystone, and Torch Club that provide positive activities to inspire the next generation of leaders. This funding also supported the renovations of The CLUB Teen Center and will help the Club expand career and education planning opportunities for Wayne County youth 13 and older.

“Mayer Management is proud that the work we do through our Community Grants program connects teenagers with the resources and opportunities they need to learn and drive change,” **President of Mayer Management Inc. Taco Bell Restaurants James Mayer** said in a press release. “We are delighted to be able to give back to our hometown by helping support Richmond’s teens.”

Buffalo Wild Wings Gives to Youth Sports



BGCWC is excited to announce that we’ve received a grant of \$3,500 from the **Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation**! Thank you, Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation, for helping us fuel the champions of the next generation. Because of partners like you, we’re able to impact Wayne County and encourage kids to thrive & compete.

Tri Kappa Funds STEAM Programming



Thank you to **Tri Kappa** for supporting STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programming at the Club! Funds from Tri Kappa will support activities like our Thinking Like a Scientist program, MyFuture.net, and the BGCA National Art Show.

Reid Renews Support for the Club

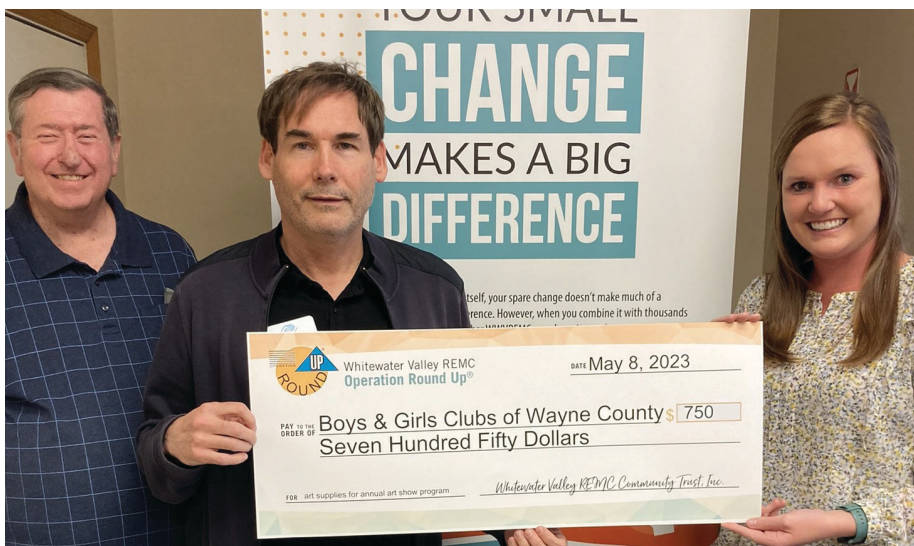


Director of Community Benefit Jessica Przybysz and Community Benefit Specialist Brian Schleeper from Reid Community Benefit stopped by to present the Club with a check to support substance misuse education. BGCWC presents evidence-based curricula in Wayne County Schools and Clubs. Thanks Reid Community Benefit for your ongoing support of the Clubs and our kids!

Grant Gets Great Futures Rolling



Through the **Dakich Cycles for the City** grant, awarded by the **Indiana Sports Corp**, we were able to provide ten Club members with new bikes, helmets, and locks from our local **DICK'S Sporting Goods** store. What a great way to roll into summer!

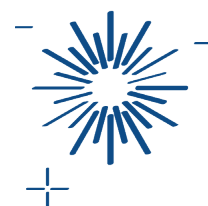


REMC Supports Annual Art Show

Thanks to **Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Membership Corporation** and all their members who participate in the Round Up program, the Club was awarded \$750.00 to help provide members with supplies for our annual art show. In addition to this grant, Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust recently awarded grants to twelve other local not-for-profit organizations.



Donate today at bgcrichmond.org!



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF WAYNE COUNTY



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