

THE CLUB CONNECTION



A Message from CEO, Alex Williamson

At the Boys & Girls Club of Massillon, communication is at the heart of connection. Over the past year, we've seen incredible growth in our programs, partnerships, and most importantly, in the number of young people we serve. As we continue to expand our impact, we recognize how important it is to keep you our donors, members, families, and community partners informed and engaged in the work happening every day inside our Club.

That's why we're expanding our monthly newsletter. Our goal is to bridge the gap between the Club and our community, offering a closer look at the stories, successes, and daily moments that define who we are. Each issue will share program highlights, upcoming events, member achievements, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can stay connected and involved.

Together, we're building something special a community where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank you for being part of our story and for helping us make a lasting difference.

With gratitude,

Alex Williamson

Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Massillon



\$90 for 90 Years
Investing in Great Futures.
Your Gift Helps Build the Endowment that will Power the next 90 Years of Impact.

AS THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MASSILLION CELEBRATES 90 YEARS, WE INVITE YOU TO INVEST IN THE NEXT 90. A GIFT OF \$90 OR ANY AMOUNT HELPS GROW OUR ENDOWMENT, ENSURING FUTURE GENERATIONS HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE. YOUR SUPPORT TODAY BUILDS THE FOUNDATION FOR TOMORROW.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MASSILLION

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Team Tressel Fitness Challenge

As part of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's statewide initiative to help Ohioans live healthier and reach their full potential, the Team Tressel Fitness Challenge has officially launched and our Club was honored to be part of it!

The challenge, led by Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Jim Tressel, and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin, is a 90-day journey designed to help Ohio students build lifelong healthy habits in physical activity, nutrition, and sleep. Through personalized goal setting, students learn how to develop routines that support their overall well-being and long-term success.

Participants progress through three achievement levels Bronze, Silver, and Gold as they complete activities from a menu of options outlined in their challenge workbook. The program is flexible, allowing students to participate individually outside of school hours or in collaboration with their schools and communities.

The Fitness Challenge is open to all Ohio students public, private, community, and homeschool alike giving every young person the opportunity to take charge of their health.

Here at the Boys & Girls Club of Massillon, our program staff has been actively working with our kids to engage in the Fitness Challenge. Through fun activities, guidance, and encouragement, our team is helping Club members set goals, track progress, and build healthy habits they can carry with them for years to come.

We were thrilled to welcome Jim Tressel and his team to the Club on Tuesday, October 14, where he met with some of our Club members to share inspiration, encouragement, and practical tips for staying healthy. During the afternoon

event, a handful of youth volunteers and Club staff took part in multiple exercise drills led by Tressel, including jumping jacks, push-ups, toe touches, and leg balancing. His visit brought great energy and enthusiasm to our Club, reinforcing the importance of fitness and wellness in our kids' daily lives.



For More
Information on the
Tressel Fitness
Challenge



BGCM Cheer Team in Action!

Boys & Girls Club of Massillon Cheer Team has been busy showing their spirit! They cheered enthusiastically at the Freshman Football Games, marched proudly in the Massillon McKinley Parade, and created colorful posters to line our entryway for the big game!



What's Been Cooking: Farm to CACFP Week at the Club



The Boys & Girls Club of Massillon recently celebrated Farm to CACFP Week, a national education campaign hosted annually during the third week of October by the National CACFP Association. The campaign highlights the benefits of connecting child and adult care programs with local foods, helping kids learn about nutrition while supporting area farmers and businesses.



Our Food Service Director, Brighid Keen, curated a thoughtful meal plan for the week, featuring ingredients from local businesses including 3D Meats, Ohio Cider, and Nickles. Club members enjoyed a delicious menu that included chicken & waffles, apple cider, chili, baby back ribs, grilled cheese, and even tried PawPaws – Ohio's native fruit! Often described as a cross between a mango, banana, and pineapple, the PawPaw gave our kids a unique taste of Ohio's local harvest.



Farm to CACFP Week is more than just fun meals it's an opportunity for our kids to explore healthy foods, learn about local agriculture, and develop lifelong habits that support their well-being. We're proud to celebrate local foods, inspire curiosity, and provide meals that are as educational as they are delicious.



Club Earns Gold Gourd Award

The Boys & Girls Club of Massillon is proud to be a Gold Gourd Award recipient in Ohio's Farm to Summer Challenge!

The Farm to Summer Challenge celebrates Ohio sponsors who use Farm to Summer strategies to improve summer meal programs. Organizations that complete at least one activity from each of the three challenge areas are recognized with a Gold Gourd, Silver Snow Pea, or Bronze Bean award.

The three challenge areas include:

- Eat: Serve locally grown food or celebrate Cucumber Crunch Day by enjoying an Ohio-grown cucumber.
- Grow: Participate in a gardening activity, take an agriculture-related field trip, or host a gardening professional such as a Master Gardener.
- Engage: Share your Farm to Summer activities with the community through social media, local media, newsletters, or other engagement channels.

By eating local, exploring agriculture, and engaging our community, our Club earned the Gold Gourd for our outstanding Farm to Summer efforts! We're proud to celebrate this achievement and our commitment to helping kids learn where their food comes from while building healthy habits for life.

The Club's Canvas: BGC's Art Program

Butterfly Chrysalis Phases & Release

Over a few weeks, our members observed and studied 24 butterflies, drawing what they saw each day as the butterflies went through their chrysalis phases and hatched at different times. First and second graders had the special experience of releasing the butterflies outside. To wrap up the project, members created beautiful paper collages of monarch butterflies, celebrating the full life cycle they had watched and learned about.



DIY "Trunk of Treat" Toy Story Build



Our fourth graders got hands-on with a DIY construction project for the "Trunk of Treat" Toy Story theme, recreating Andy's Room entirely from recyclable materials. Members learned and practiced different building techniques to create large toy props, discovering through trial and error how to make pieces sturdy enough to hold. Creativity, visualization, and imagination were key throughout the process. Students also got supervised experience using tools like box cutters, paper mache, spray paint, hot glue guns, and cordless hand saws, gaining confidence while bringing their ideas to life.

Video Making & Public Speaking in Action

Our members recently explored video making and public speaking, learning how to give back to nonprofits and spread awareness about causes that matter to them. They created engaging videos with short funny lines and artwork to capture viewers' attention.

During a Chipotle fundraiser, members designed artwork featuring their favorite orders to accompany their speaking parts, encouraging families to support the Club. For our sports-focused members, a project inspired by basketball YouTuber DVontay Friga pushed them out of their comfort zones. They made signs, brainstormed creative video ideas, and highlighted athletic skills—bringing together sports and creativity in a new way.

We also celebrated Miss K's 34th Birthday with a series of videos. Members shared kind words about Miss K and the art program, crafted skits, and even tried to get the attention of Shaquille O'Neal, learning about his humanitarian work and BGC connection along the way. While Shaq didn't respond, the fundraiser raised \$2,154, growing stronger each year and showing the incredible support for our Club.



Inside the Club: Programs Making an Impact

Dancing Into Enrichment

Our Club has been a buzz of activity with our new partnership with Canton Ballet, offering free dance instruction for students ages 6–12 as part of a reward-based enrichment initiative.

Originally a one-month summer pilot, the program has been expanded thanks to the generosity of the Arthur P. and Martha Q. Underhill Charitable Fund.

Through ballet, our members are not only learning new skills but also building confidence, focus, and discipline—all while having fun! We are grateful to Canton Ballet and the Underhill Fund for making this enriching opportunity possible.



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS
OF BUILDING CHAMPIONS
AT THE HOME OF LEGENDS

» "KIDS" DINNER & AUCTION «

6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2026

The Pro Football Hall of Fame
Nash Family Event Center
2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton, OH 44708

Save the Date: 38th Annual "Kids Dinner & Auction"

Mark your calendars! We are thrilled to announce that our 38th Annual Kids Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Nash Family Event Center.

We are excited to host this milestone event in a new venue, bringing fresh energy and opportunities to grow our celebration for the kids we serve.

We are currently seeking sponsors and item donations to make this event even more impactful. Give Alex a call to learn how you can help and make a difference for the kids! Stay tuned for more details as we prepare for an evening full of fun, community, and celebration.

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(330) 833-4395

Spooktacular Fun for Halloween!

At the end of October, the Club came alive with ghosts, goblins, and ghouls for our annual Halloween Party! Kids of all ages joined in the fun, showing off their creative costumes while enjoying a variety of spooky activities and exploring our haunted house.

The event was filled with thrilling surprises, festive decorations, and plenty of sweet treats, making it a memorable night for our Club members. Events like this are not just about fun—they give kids a safe, welcoming environment to celebrate and create lasting memories.

We want to thank all of our volunteers, staff, and community supporters who helped make this year's Halloween Party such a success. Your dedication ensures that our members have the opportunity to enjoy safe, exciting events throughout the year. We can't wait to see everyone again next year for more festive fun!



Trunk or Treat at the Massillon Rec Center

For the second year in a row, the Boys & Girls Club of Massillon hosted its thrilling Trunk or Treat event, and this year, our 4th graders played a big role in making it unforgettable! The students were heavily involved in creating decorations, spooky displays, and fun surprises that lined the trunks of cars throughout the Club's parking lot.

Their creativity and hard work helped bring the event to life, delighting Club members as they traveled from trunk to trunk collecting treats and enjoying festive activities. Events like this not only celebrate the season but also give kids the chance to contribute, showcase their talents, and build lasting memories with their friends.

A huge thank you to our 4th graders, volunteers, and staff for making this year's Trunk or Treat a spectacular success. We can't wait to see what spooky fun they'll dream up next year!

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