



SPiRiT of the Future



Auction Raises \$90k for Clubs

The "Breakfast at Tiffany's" Gala Dinner and Auction held on August 25 raised \$90,000 for the Clubs! The auction offered over 200 items to bid on, including themed gift baskets, wall art, home furnishings, vehicles and more! All the money raised goes toward programs and operating expenses for both Units. Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors, and especially to those who opened their wallets to bid on auction items for a good cause. We couldn't have done it without you!

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The Quarterly Newsletter of The



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES, INC.

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Diversity in Programming

The Boys & Girls Clubs offer diverse programming designed to help our members achieve personal successes. The programs recognize developmental principles, and are based on physical, emotional, cultural and social needs and the interests of girls and boys. Program activities encompass five distinct areas:

Character and Leadership Development empowers youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.

Education and Career Development enables youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.

Health and Life Skills develops young people's capacity to engage in positive

behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

The Arts enables youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.

Finally, **Sports, Fitness and Recreation** develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills. Through these five core program areas, our members become engaged in activities with adults, peers and family members that enable them to develop self-esteem and to reach their full potential.



Chief Professional Officer

Pop Warner Football



Fall is just around the corner, and with that comes... FOOTBALL season! But at the Boys and Girls Club, we don't just get excited about college professional football... we get excited about Pop Warner Football! Two brothers who are members at the NE Lake Unit, Caleb Robinson and Logan Rose, play in the Umatilla league.

Caleb, who plays running back, corner, and sometimes safety, says that his favorite thing about playing Pop Warner ball is "hittin' somebody" and "running the ball". Logan said his favorites also include "running the ball" and "tackling somebody". When asked how the Boys and Girls Club has contributed to their Pop Warner experience, the boys both answered that they think the fact that they play almost every sport at the club helps their football ability. Caleb added that he gets great practice for running when he runs away from Coach Zo (a staff member at the NE Lake Unit).

The relationship that staff member Zo Durias has been able to build with the kids while playing sports with them in our sports clinic has extended past the Club, as Zo was able to attend a recent home game in Umatilla. Caleb and Logan said that they really liked hearing Coach Zo cheer for them, even though they couldn't always hear him because of the big crowd. Zo's favorite thing about watching the kids play football is, "seeing them have fun and seeing them use some of the things I teach them." Though he has only been able to attend one game so far, he plans on going to another home game soon. The boys said they definitely love having fans, so anytime you get a chance, go support our local Boys and Girls Club members and Pop Warner teams!



Congratulations!

The NE Lake Unit gained a new family member on July 28 when Unit Director Robb Elmatti and his wife Heather welcomed their new daughter into the world. Faith Ann made her entrance in a hurry, arriving just eight minutes after the proud parents made it to the birthing center! Congratulations to the new parents from your "family" at the Club!

Donor of the Quarter



We had a very special project at the Teeter Unit this Quarter! Our restrooms were totally remodeled during the "End of the Summer" break. Therefore, we are honoring more than one Donor. Thanks to

the generosity of the J. Carlisle Rogers, Ruth Rogers & James Carlisle Rogers Jr. Family Foundation with a \$20,000 donation and the Haywood Charitable Trust with a \$1,000 donation, we were able to complete this massive project with minimal cost to the Club. Thank you so much for your support of this much needed project!

Holiday Closings

The Teeter and NE Lake Units will be closed on the following holidays so our staff can enjoy time with their families:

Thanksgiving (November 22-23)

Christmas (December 24-25)

New Year (December 31-January 1)

Chronicling Club Memories

Members at the NE Lake Unit have formed a scrapbook club. The girls in the group work on the scrapbook twice a month during Power Hour, and have been creating pages based on past events that the Club has participated in. "The girls have a lot of fun and they are learning when we work as a team things get done," said Cheryl Moulden, Education Assistant.

Valery Sanchez, Sara Jones, Syera Lokietz, Marisol Sanchez, Priscilla Airas and Lauren Thornton proudly display their finished pages.



End of Summer Fun

This year's summer program was longer than most, due to the change in school start dates. Even with the extra few weeks, both Units had great summer programs and finished off the summer with big celebrations.

The Teeter Unit held the first annual "Family Reunion: Day at the Park" at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Ocala. All members, and their families, were invited to the celebration. The day was filled with games and excitement - activities included swimming, basketball, field games and fun in the beautiful play area. Local businesses contributed to make this a day for the staff and kids to remember. "We would like to thank Wild Oak, Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart, Red Lobster, Chili's, Albertson's, McDonalds and Popeye's for donating items for our big day - they played a tremendous part in making this day successful," said Marcus Niblack, Unit Director. The staff and members hope that this event will be the start of many more to come.



Staff member Alex Snyder after being dunked at the NE Lake Unit's End of Summer Bash

The NE Lake Unit held a carnival-type party at the Club, complete with fun jumps, carnival games, food and a dunking booth. Every member even got a chance to dunk Unit Director Robb Elmatti! It was a great way to finish off the summer, and the kids had a great time.

School Year Programs Off to a Great Start



Keystone Club Officers (clockwise from top left): Xavia Belton, Venita Russell, Precious Pounds, Shantai Pounds, Jaquana Wallace

The Teeter Unit's Keystone Club is in full swing, and the 13 teen members are working on raising money for a trip to the national Keystone Conference being held in November. The Keystone members are also taking on a variety of tasks around the Club, including tutoring, maintaining the Club bulletin boards, participating in the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter, and more. The Keystone Club's purpose is to create and maintain high standards of health, education, character and citizenship in order to meet the responsibilities of our democratic way of life.

The NE Lake Unit has partnered with the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts to bring programming to the Club. Members are working on putting together cars in the art program to compete in a Pinewood Derby, and a fun day with activities is scheduled to be held in October. The tutoring program is also starting FCAT preparation in November.

Both Units are teaming up to participate in an event called Brain Candy to be held November 10 at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. Brain Candy is an educational competition that includes Math Jeopardy, Map Relay, Spelling Bee, Scrabble, Connect Four and Checkers and Chess. Each event is designed to require a different educational skill, and is presented in a fun way. Our members will be competing against other BGC members from across Central and Northeast Florida, and all participants will walk away with a prize. Both Units are hard at work getting ready for the event, practicing in the homework room after school.



How You Can Help

Help us grow our Clubs so we may offer our programs to more children in the communities we serve. Every dollar counts toward building the future of these children; it is your donation that will help ensure the *SPIRIT of the Future* for each and every child.

Please make checks payable to **Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc.** and return this form with your donation to:
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc.
 400 Executive Blvd., Leesburg, FL 34748

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Adopt-A-Family is Back!

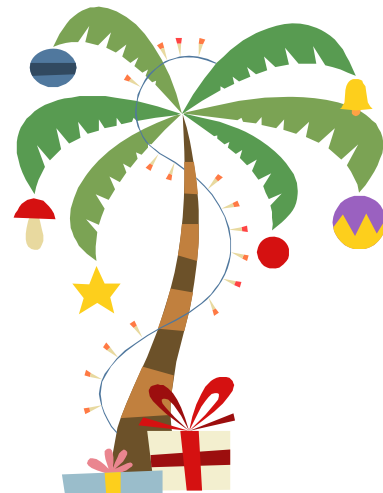
Many of our members come from circumstances such that the likelihood of having a pile of presents under the Christmas tree is very low. In fact, even having a tree at all is a treat for some of our members. You can help these kids enjoy a happy holiday season this year, and show them that there are people out there who do care.

We are conducting a gift drive at the Teeter and NE Lake Units to help make this Christmas bright for our members. Individuals and businesses can “Adopt a Family” to help make their season bright.

If you or your business are interested in adopting a family, please contact one of our Units to make arrangements.

Teeter Unit (Leesburg) - (352) 787-0053 or (352) 787-1937

NE Lake Unit (at ALEE Academy in Eustis) - (352) 589-5522



How are we doing?

We need your feedback! Now that we have been doing this newsletter for about a year, we'd like to know what you think. Do you read each issue? Do you look for specific features? Let us know! Send your questions, comments or concerns to info@bgclsc.org. If you prefer regular mail, you can drop us a line at 400 Executive Blvd, Leesburg, FL 34748. We look forward to hearing from you!