



SPIRIT of the Future



Annual Campaign Kicks Off Year of the Ox Clubs Aim to Raise \$100,000 by June

The 2009 It Just Takes One annual campaign kicked off with a bang at the Chinese New Year party held by Board member Dr. Tom Shen and his wife Liz on February 7. This was the 19th year the Shens have held the party, and this year BGCLSC was the charity of choice - guests could watch a video about the Clubs and had an opportunity to donate that night. The party brought in a total of over \$2000 to kick off the It Just Takes One campaign, with more contributions to be mailed in. The evening finished with



an impressive fireworks display to celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Ox.



Alicia Brinson (Teeter Unit Director - seated) and staff members Anne, PeeWee and Danny enjoyed the atmosphere and food as guests at the Shen's Chinese New Year party.

The It Just Takes One campaign is held each year from January through June, and is focused on individual donors. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000. Funds raised in this campaign will be used for general operating expenses and are necessary to run a successful and effective organization. "We know that it takes just one person to make a difference in the life of a child," explains Beth H. Work, Chief Professional Officer. "You can make an impact in the life of a child by providing him or her with a safe, secure and stimulating environment through the Boys & Girls Club. **Be the one!**"

The Newsletter of The



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

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it just takes | one.

Rep. Alan Hays Visits Clubs

Florida House Representative Alan Hays visited the NE Lake Unit on January 22 to speak to the newly formed Torch Club (ages 11-13) about the importance of civic engagement. "He has been a supporter of our organization since before the NE Lake Unit opened - he was at some of the first Steering Committee meetings and has continued his support," said Unit Director Robb Elmatti. Rep. Hays signed and brought two copies of "The Servant Leader" by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges to be used as prizes at the Club.

Rep. Hays also visited the Teeter Unit in Leesburg on February 23 and spoke to the teens in the Keystone Club (ages 14-18).



Meet the Executive Committee

Board Officers Bring A Wealth of Skills and Experience

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties is overseen by a Corporate Board of Directors, led by the Executive Committee. Our Board members work in a variety of fields, and we appreciate the wide range of skills and talents they bring to the Clubs. We would like to introduce you to the Executive Committee for 2009:



President

Phil Braun, Central Florida Health Alliance (which includes Leesburg Regional Medical Center and The Villages Regional Hospital)

Phil joined the Board in 2003 and just began a two year term as President in January. Involvement in the Boys & Girls Clubs runs in his family - his father Doug was a long-time Board member and is still a supporter of the Clubs. Phil also wanted to be able to help kids - "It is my hope that those who we help now will in turn help others when they have the opportunity or ability," he says.



President-Elect/Vice President - Resource Development

Eric English, English Communications

Another second-generation Board member (his father Rob served on the Board for about 9 years starting in 1992), Eric joined the Board two years ago "to be part of an organization that positively impacts kids lives now and in their future."



Vice President - Board Development

Chris Carlyle, The Carlyle Appellate Law Firm

Chris has served on the Board since 2003. "My good friend, Tom Brooks, one of the 'fathers' of the Lake and Sumter Boys and Girls Club, asked me if I would like to join the board. I was honored to be asked, and I've been more and more impressed with the work the Club does the longer I am involved."



Treasurer/Vice President - Finance

Mike Pederson, United Southern Bank

Mike has been a member of the Board for 6 years, and is a long-time supporter of the Clubs. He has served as Treasurer for the past 5 years and is a tireless advocate for the Clubs.



Vice President - Operations

Rachel Horn, WaterWise

Rachel has served on the board for 5 years and continues to be an asset to the organization. When she moved back to Lake County after being away for many years, she immediately became involved in the community, not only personally, but also using her connections to help the Club.



Secretary/Vice President - PR & Marketing

Mandy Wettstein, Baker Wettstein Marketing and PR Inc.

Mandy has only served on the Board for one year, but quickly got involved in the efforts to bring a Club to South Lake. "I felt very strongly that I could have a long-term impact on our local community by being involved with this particular organization. All our non-profits are beneficial, but Boys & Girls Club is very meaningful to me as a parent."



Past President

Kristen Knight, ATEX Distributing Inc.

Kristen has been on the Board since 2003 and just completed a two-year term as President in December. She became involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs because "helping children allows you to improve society on first level instead of trying to undo years of negative progress."

From the Desk of...A Parent

January 3, 2009

It is an honor for having my four children joining the Boys & Girls Club. Throughout the year 2008, my children have benefited in the program that your organization made available in my community. I strongly believe that your hard work and dedication are going to make a big difference in tomorrow's society. For it has long been said, and been proven to be true that today's children are the leaders of tomorrow. I admire your great works, and I will strongly recommend other parents to join the Boys & Girls Club.

Sincerely,

Inade L.

Featured Donor

The **Leadership Lake Class of 2007** has been very generous toward the Clubs - their most recent contribution allowed for some improvements to the Teeter Unit facility, including adding a shade awning to the south side of the building, and mulch and curbing to improve the appearance of the front of the building. Board member Eric English was a member of this class, and was instrumental in making the connection.



"The awning will not only provide a shaded spot to sit, but also provide an energy savings by cutting the direct sunlight exposure of the Learning Center windows," explained Beth H. Work, Chief Professional Officer. "We won't need to use as much energy cooling the room in warm weather!"

Thank you, Leadership Lake Class of 2007!

For more news that didn't make it to the print version, check out our website at www.bgjisc.org, provided by

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Dates to Remember:



3rd Annual Golf Marathon
 Continental Country Club
 Friday, April 3, 2009
 Contact Eric English for information
 (352) 308-7111

Youth of the Year

Florida Youth of the Year
 Hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida
 April 19-21, 2009



Fish Fry Fundraising Fun!

The 4th Annual Fish Fry, held on October 30, 2008 at the Eustis Community Center, raised over \$15,000 to support programs at the NE Lake Unit in Eustis. Thank you to all of our sponsors and to everyone that came out that evening to support the NE Lake Unit!

