



SPIRIT of the Future



Get Ready to Celebrate - Latin Style!

Annual Gala Auction to be held September 13 at Savannah Center

The Newsletter of The



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

TEETER UNIT

400 Executive Blvd.
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-0053

NE LAKE UNIT

1705 E. CR 44
Eustis, FL 32726
(352) 589-5522

e-mail: info@bgclsc.org

Visit us on the Web
www.bgclsc.org

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We are hard at work preparing for the 2008 "Celebração Latina" – a Latin-themed celebration including a masquerade, dinner and auction. The event will be held September 13 at The Villages' Savannah Center.

"We are so excited to have Lauren Bigham as our Auction Chairperson this year," said Beth Work, Chief Professional Officer. "She is a second generation 'giver' to the Club (her father is Dr. Kim Etheredge, who spent many years on the Corporate Board of Directors, and her mother Michelle was a buyer for the Auction for many years). Lauren is bringing youth and excitement to this year's auction. With an ambitious goal of raising \$100,000, we look forward to the fun that Lauren and the committee are planning!"



This event is the Clubs' biggest fundraiser of the year. All funds raised through this event go back to support the Clubs and the thousands of children that we serve both in the Clubs and through community outreach programs, so every contribution - no matter how large or small – helps. Sponsorships and tickets are still available!

Please contact our Administrative Office at (352) 787-0053 to learn more.

Partnerships Benefit Summer Program

Groups Provide Meals, Programs and Facilities for Club Members

The summer program was a great success this year, due in part to partnerships with other local organizations.

A great big thank you to:

• Lake Community Action

LCA provided lunches and snacks to both the Teeter and NE Lake Units for the summer program. Between the two Units, we served meals and snacks to an average of 285 members per day with no cost to the families.

• Lake Community Health Department

The Health Department sent volunteers to the Teeter Unit to teach our members about tobacco prevention. Not only did they visit the Club several times, but the Health Department also donated \$2,500 to allow us to continue the program.

• Leesburg Lightning

The Florida Collegiate Summer League (the only college summer baseball league in Florida supported by Major League Baseball) participated in the Ken Griffey Jr. Youth League to teach Boys & Girls Club members across central Florida about baseball, and one "Value Topic" per week (including responsibility and teamwork). The Leesburg Lightning worked with a group of 13 boys and 2 girls from the Teeter Unit every Tuesday and Thursday for six weeks. Equipment for the program was donated by MLB's Rookie League.

• City of Umatilla

See page 3 for information about how the City of Umatilla allowed the NE Lake Unit to expand its reach and serve 50 more members during the summer!

NE Lake Unit Scores Basketball Court

Local Companies Collaborate to Turn Dream into Reality

Over the last six months, the outdoor activity facilities at the NE Lake Unit have expanded to include a soccer field, a heavy-duty swing set, and now a basketball court.

The land clearing for the basketball court began on May 29th, and the last goals were installed at the beginning of July, so the court was ready for play in time for the second half of the summer program. Surfacing will complete the project in August.

“This court is a great addition for not only the Club, but also for Alee Academy,” said Robb Elmatti, NE Lake Unit Director. “It includes 6 goals, two of which are lower than standard height to allow our smaller members a chance to play as well.” The basketball court will also be utilized by students at Alee during the school year.

Since the NE Lake Unit is housed in Alee Academy, they share the facilities, as well as the cost of expansion. According to Elmatti, the cost of the project totaled approximately \$20,000, and the cost was shared between the school, the Club and our collaborative partners.



Rob Adrid, Chairman of the NE Lake Advisory Council, praised the teamwork that brought this project together. “Completion of the basketball court enables the NE Lake Unit to expand its services in providing a safe and positive place for kids. This project became a reality through the collaborative efforts of **Alee Academy, Utility Technicians, Tony Lambert, Triangle Construction & Development, Harris Carpentry & Concrete, Lem Bryant Land Clearing** and **Florida Building Materials**. On behalf of the Club staff and membership, we again say THANK YOU!”

“It was because of the Advisory Council’s hard work that this project was able to happen, so a great big thank you to those individuals as well,” added Elmatti.

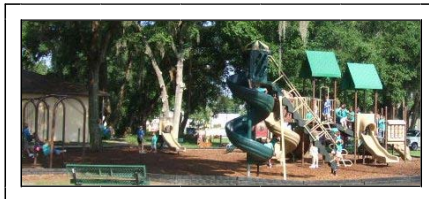
Clubs Expanding

Summer Program Included a Umatilla Site, Plans Underway for South Lake Club

Through a partnership with the City of Umatilla, the NE Lake Unit was able to expand operations this summer to include the Umatilla Recreation Building in Cadwell Park. Richard Hatfield, Assistant Public Works Director with the City, contacted Robb Elmatti at the NE Lake Unit in the spring to see if the Club would be interested in using the building for the summer program. Robb's answer? A resounding YES!!!

"This partnership was a great opportunity to offer our programming to even more youth in the community this summer," he said.

The Kiddy Camp program (ages 5-6) was held at the Umatilla site, while the older members (the NE Lake Unit serves through age 12) were served at the main Unit in Eustis. The Club provided transportation between both locations in the morning and afternoon to allow parents to drop off and pick up their children at either location.



COMING SOON TO
SOUTH LAKE!

Also in the works are plans to open a Boys & Girls Club in South Lake in a partnership with Imagine Schools and Sylvan Learning.

Corporate Board member Mandy Wettstein has taken a lead role in the South Lake project. "We had a great community partner - Imagine Schools - with a school location," she says. "Cathy Graff from Sylvan (Learning) wanted to get involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs, and the idea of the partnership came together!"

Beth Work is excited about how the planning has progressed. "The South Lake Steering Committee has set a goal of raising \$300,000 by June 2009, enabling us to open that Unit for the 2009 Summer Program. The community has stepped up and is working very hard - they saw the need and are making it happen!"

Members Corner



"What I like to do is play outside on the swings and play outside at the basketball court. It is fun because it is good exercising by running and shooting hoops.

The art room is my favorite because you get to draw, paint, color, and even more it's fun, and the art teacher who teaches art is Mr. Ryan. He is a good art teacher and an excellent drawer and that got me thinking that I might want to be a drawer because I like to draw different characters from Winnie the Pooh, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy, Goofy, and other characters."

~Valery, age 11 (NE Lake Unit)

"The Club has been my safe zone. There are so many other things that could be bad, but the Club gives me options and all of them are good. My Club family has supported me and helped me be the person I am today - a strong and POSITIVE teen who knows what she wants to do."

~Precious, age 17 (Teeter Unit)



"It Just Takes One" Campaign Raises over \$85,000

Donations Up 62% From Last Year



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2008 "It Just Takes One" Annual Campaign! The six month campaign is driven by individual donations, and due to the generosity of many individuals we raised \$85,168.

"The 2008 campaign was our biggest and best ever! The campaign raised over \$85,000 this year - a 62% increase from the dollars raised in 2007," said Beth Work, Chief Professional Officer.

A big thank you also goes to the Jacobsen Foundation for matching the first \$35,000 raised, and the Monar Foundation for contributing an additional \$7,500.

"We would like to thank all of our donors - especially in this tight economy - for opening their hearts and wallets for the Boys & Girls Clubs kids," said Work.

Special thanks to our Society Level donors:

Dale & Cheryl Bartch	Jeremiah Milbanks Society
Greg & Kristen Knight	Jeremiah Milbanks Society
Gregg-Strimenos Foundation	Jeremiah Milbanks Society
Sarah W. George Trust	Griffin Society
Lou & Shirley Radnothy	Dora Society
Mike Davenport	Beauclair Society
Leadership Lake, Class of 2001	Beauclair Society
Wilma Braun	Panasoffkee Society

TaxWatch Study Shows Florida Clubs Make a Difference

Club Programming Results in Saved Money for the State

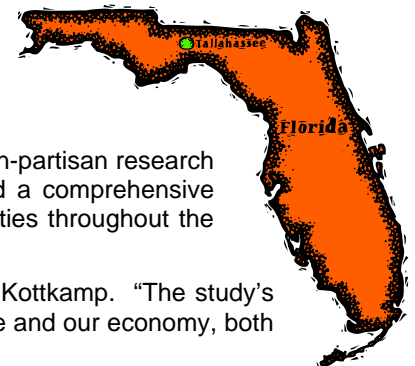
According to a recent study conducted by the Florida TaxWatch Research Institute, young people who attend Boys & Girls Clubs in Florida show higher high school graduation rates and better behavior, resulting in increased lifetime earnings and hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for the state in costs for health care and incarceration.

Florida TaxWatch Research Institute, Inc. (known as Florida TaxWatch), a non-profit, non-partisan research institute based in Tallahassee, with assistance from MGT of America, Inc., conducted a comprehensive study of the economic impact of Florida Boys & Girls Clubs (FBGC) on local communities throughout the state.

"An investment in our children is an investment into our future," said Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. "The study's results are proof that Florida's Boys & Girls Clubs continue to influence our young people and our economy, both for the better."

"The Florida TaxWatch study shows that organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties can utilize state support to save taxpayers large sums through proven and effective programs," said Beth Work, Chief Professional Officer. "Young people with higher levels of education will become more productive members of society, have a reduced need for government support programs, and pay more in taxes to state government, everything from employment and property taxes to higher retail spending."

Visit the [Press Releases](http://www.bgclsc.org) section on our website (www.bgclsc.org) to see the how this translates into saved money for the state.





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Did You Know?



The teens at the Teeter Unit in Leesburg are embarking on a tour of colleges to see what kind of opportunities exist for them after high school.

The tour started during the summer program with visits to:

- University of North Florida *Jacksonville, FL*
- Bethune Cookman University *Daytona Beach, FL*
- University of Florida *Gainesville, FL*
- University of South Florida *Tampa, FL*
- Florida A& M University *Tallahassee, FL*

The College Tour was the idea of staff member Ron Brown and put together by Mr. Brown, staff member Quentin Peeples and Teen Coordinator Priscilla Pounds.

If you have contacts at another school within 2 1/2 hours driving distance of Leesburg, we'd love to take a tour! Contact Ron Brown at (352) 787-0053 to suggest a school.

By the Numbers...

During the summer of 2008:

- 636** Total number of children served
- 329** Average daily attendance in July
- 45** Counselors on staff
- 9** Weeks in the Summer Program
- 5** Days per week the Clubs were open
 (with the exception of the 4th of July)

