



# SPiRiT of the Future



The Quarterly Newsletter of The



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

### 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](mailto:info@bgclsc.org)

Visit us on the Web  
[www.bgclsc.org](http://www.bgclsc.org)

### In This Issue:

Making Connections - The Club is More Than A Facility	1
International Buffet at Teeter Unit	1
Teeter Unit Celebrates Boys and Girls Club Week	2
Summer Program Almost Here	2
Annual Campaign	2
Youth of the Year	2
NE Lake Unit Updates	3
How You Can Help	3
Note from the Board President	4

## Making Connections The Club is More Than A Facility

Picture this – buses arrive full of active, hungry youth between the ages of 5-18 years old who have just spent a day in school. They hop out, ready to eat a snack, do their homework and head off to their group.

What is the group doing today? They may be working on an Art project or playing in a tournament in the games room or learning how to use Excel in the computer lab or playing a game of basketball or building a float - the list goes on and on.

The Boys & Girls Clubs in our community offer a wide variety of activities for our members, but I guarantee that not one member comes to the Club for the gym, pool tables or even the computer lab.

The kids come to the Club for that one Staff member that they have connected with. That Staff member that listens to them, that helps them, that truly cares about them. We, at the Boys & Girls Club, are very proud of the Professional

Staff that spends each day learning and listening to our members who will one day become the future leaders of our community.

Come and spend just one afternoon at the Club – spend time talking to a child – you will have “your story” about what the Club truly means to a child.



Chief Professional Officer

## International Buffet at Teeter Unit



In the last newsletter, we issued an open invitation to the First Annual International Buffet. It was held on February 24 in the gym at the Teeter Unit, and was a huge success!

The International Buffet was a project created by the Keystone and Torch Club members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties. The key ideas for the project were UNITY and DIVERSITY, and each member who participated focused on those ideas.

Eleven different countries were featured - Africa, Cuba, China, Italy, Mexico, Greece, Jamaica, India, Kenya, Egypt and the United States. Each offered delicious food prepared by members of the Keystone and Torch clubs, along with interesting facts about the country. Every person that attended received a “passport” that allowed them to travel from country to country.

Parents and children alike expressed how much they enjoyed themselves, and Club members and Staff had a good time putting on the event.

# Teeter Unit Celebrates Boys and Girls Club Week

For more than 75 years, Clubs have celebrated Boys and Girls Club Week by turning the spotlight on the life-changing work the clubs do every day. This year, Boys and Girls Club Week was held March 25-31, and the Teeter Unit had a full week of activities planned! As a way of encouraging participation, each member that participated in the day's activity received a treat (popsicle, candy bar, ice cream cone, etc.).

One of the more popular events was the Staff vs. Members basketball game held on Wednesday. The halftime show included a step performance by some of the members and staff. The staff ended up winning by a close margin, but Unit Director Marcus Niblack commented that the kids really played a great game and made them work for the victory.

Another popular activity was Family Picture Day. Members and staff alike were encouraged to bring in pictures of themselves and their families to hang on the bulletin board. Everyone had fun looking at the variety of pictures people brought in, and identifying some of the not-so-recent staff pictures.

Overall, the activities really demonstrated why we are "The Positive Place for Kids."



Members and staff perform a step show for the crowd at halftime

## Summer Program Almost Here

### Summer Schedule

#### Teeter Unit:

May 29 through August 17

7:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Club closed for training, cleaning and preparation May 21-25, August 20-24*

#### NE Lake Unit:

May 29 through August 10

7:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Club closed for training, cleaning and preparation May 21-25, August 13-17*



Summer break is quickly approaching, which means the Summer Program is almost here!

Outside of regular activities offered by the Club, optional daily field trips to local sites (bowling, library, skating, etc.) and day trips on Fun Fridays (Wild Waters, Science Center, Easy Street, etc.) will help make the summer program fun for everyone!

The cost is only \$100 per member (after \$25 non-refundable annual membership

dues) for the entire Summer Program, and fees for the Summer Program are capped at \$200 per family. Daily field trips are \$3 per child, and Fun Fridays range from \$8-20 per child.

Thanks to fundraisers (like the gift basket drawing on the next page) and generous support from the community, there are scholarships available to help cover program fees and field trip costs. Contact the Unit Director for more information.

**Teeter Unit - Marcus Niblack (352) 787-0053**

**NE Lake Unit - Robb Elmatti (352) 589-5522**

## Annual Campaign

it just takes | **one.**

An annual campaign is the cornerstone of a successful organization. The financial commitment of many generous donors in our community to the general fund or to the endowment of the Boys & Girls Clubs

of Lake and Sumter Counties allows the club to fund the programs it runs in the present, and ensures that it will be able to do so in years to come. The development of a strong financial base will allow the Clubs to continue to grow, to serve more youth, and to provide members with more programs and a helpful and healthful alternative on a daily basis. A strong financial base will also allow us to continue to grow geographically and to serve those areas in which the need for a safe and productive environment for children is rapidly growing.

Our goal for the 2007 "It Just Takes One" Annual Campaign is to raise **\$50,000**. We are well on the way to achieving our goal, but we still need your help. Be a part of a community of philanthropists in our local area committed to changing the future one child at a time.

### Youth of the Year



#### Precious Pounds

Precious has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties for 7 years. In 2006, she was president of the Beta Club and Student Council, and was also a member of the Superior-rated Carver Middle School chorus. Now in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Leesburg High School, Precious has maintained a 3.8 GPA and looks forward to one day achieving a PhD in Cardiology. She has a strong passion for helping people and a career in this field would enable her to give the ultimate gift – the gift of life.

## NE Lake Unit Updates

The North East Unit is serving more kids than ever - as many as 100 members a day! Our staff has been working as a team to impact the lives of our members by building positive relationships and continuing to expand our programs.

### Program Notes

We have improved our system for ensuring that every member works on assigned homework during the PowerHour session.

The Education staff recently completed the FCAT preparation tutoring program.

"Health Rocks!" has partnered with us in running health and life skills programs that are relevant to our members.

The Girl Scouts have set up a program that is open to all our female members, and we have incorporated this program in our routine schedule.

### Technology Center Opening

Club staff and volunteers partnered with Alee Academy staff to set up the new Technology Center, which is now open. Twenty-three computers were purchased with the help of grants from the Park Williams Foundation and Steve's Foundation.

Our staff is working to set up a computer education curriculum to be included in our after-school and summer programs.

Our Technology Center Grand Opening will be held on May 4, 2007 at 4:00 pm. Come join us as we officially open the NE Lake Unit Technology Center!

### Other Highlights

- Club members participated in Lakers Fan Day at Lake-Sumter Community College on February 19 by making posters and cheering on the Baseball team during their home game against St. Johns River Community College. The event, hosted by L-SCC Athletics and Student Life, included a recreational session in the gym, a special raffle for Club members, and free refreshments from the concession stand.
- With the help of our Advisory Council, we designed and created a float for the Eustis George Fest parade on February 24. Staff, volunteers and members had a good time decorating the float and participating in the parade, which featured Club members campaigning as "future presidents."
- The NE Lake Unit is holding a drawing to raise money for the Summer Program Scholarship Fund. For a donation of just \$5.00, you can enter to win one of three fabulous gift baskets! The prizes include a Multi-Purpose Basket, Gardening Basket, and Spa Basket. The drawing will be held on May 18, 2007, and you do not have to be present to win. Tickets will be sold until noon on the day of the drawing. Contact Karen Purvis at (352) 267-0149 or kpurvis@utilitytechnicians.com for more information or to purchase tickets.



## It Just Takes One...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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (Master Card \_\_\_ or Visa \_\_\_ only): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF LAKE & SUMTER COUNTIES, INC.  
Administrative Offices  
400 Executive Blvd.  
Leesburg, FL 34748



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1182  
LEESBURG, FL 34748

## A Note from Kristen Bartch Knight Board President

### 2006 DEMOGRAPHICS

At a glance

- Over 4,900 youths ages 5-20 participated in the Clubs' Programs and Activities
- About 55% were boys, and 45% were girls.
- 72% of Club members come from single parent households
- 79% of members qualify for free or reduced-price lunches at school

it just takes | one.

A place to play...a place to be a kid...a place far away from the pressures of an adult life that too often affect children in our community long before they ever should. This is what the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties provides. We have future academics, future athletes, future mothers, future fathers --- OUR FUTURE at the club on a daily basis.

The time spent at the club is time in which any child can come and get help with homework, pick up a game of basketball, chill out with a friend or access the all too necessary computer lab for a project at school or just for fun. For many people these things are easily accessible at home, but in today's fast-paced society of two-income families, single parents and economic struggle, the club is often the only place these 'rights of a child' can be and are granted freely.

Donations from the community, along with grants and donations from other charitable organizations, allow these programs to be provided at very little cost to the families. In an attempt to reach even more of the children in our community we are currently running the "It Just Takes One" Annual Campaign in order to raise funds for operations and the endowment. We've included some information in this newsletter, and watch your local publications and the mail for more.

It just takes one to make a difference in the life of a child...are you that one?