



SPiRiT of the Future



Annual Campaign Kicks Off

It Just Takes One Person To Make A Difference In The Life Of A Child -
Are you the One?

The Newsletter of The



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

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The "It Just Takes One" annual campaign is in full swing! Our goal is to raise \$100,000 this year to help run our Clubs. You can help us meet this goal by using the donation form on page 5 - just indicate whether you would like your donation to be used for the general fund or the endowment.

The 2008 campaign officially kicked off with Chinese New Year themed cocktail party held at the home of Dale and Cheryl Bartch. The party featured the debut of our new marketing video, produced by Neva Video Productions. This video will also be making appearances around the community - make sure you get a chance to see it!

The "It Just Takes One" (IJTO) campaign will continue through the end of June. Other events to support the campaign include the Golf Marathon coming up on March 28, and various appearances by Club staff at community events.

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 the endowment 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. Last year's campaign raised over \$53,000 and helped support a variety of programs and general operating expenses.



Chief Professional Officer Beth Work speaks to supporters at the Cocktail Reception after the premiere of the new video.

it just takes | one.

In This Issue:

- Annual Campaign Kicks Off 1
- Taking A Hands-On Approach 2
- Surge of Support Invigorates Christmas Program 3
- Kids Corner 3
- Clubs Expand Sports Programs 4
- Featured Donor - The Emacks 5
- How You Can Help 5
- In Comes The New... 6

Society levels are designed to acknowledge larger donors and encourage them to share a community of support for our local clubs.

National BGCA Level



\$10,000

Members of the Jeremiah Milbank Society will receive an invitation to join other top Boys & Girls Club donors at a prestigious celebration, hosted by one of our national organization's distinguished alumni or benefactors. Members will receive national recognition in the Jeremiah Milbank Society catalogue as a leader who supports children at their local Boys & Girls Club. They will also be included in all Local Society events and benefits.

Local Society Levels

- \$8,500 Harris Society
- \$7,500 Griffin Society
- \$5,000 Dora Society
- \$2,500 Beauclair Society
- \$1,500 Panasoffkee Society

Members of our local society levels will receive cards from the kids on special occasions, be recognized throughout the year on donor boards at our events, in our communications and presentations and at a special pre-auction cocktail party for society members.

Taking a Hands-On Approach

Organizations Volunteer Hours for Days of Caring

Most people like to spend their time off from work relaxing - maybe sitting by the pool or taking in a movie. The staff at English Communications decided that they wanted to spend some of their time off helping the Boys & Girls Clubs in a Day of Caring. Bright and early on a Saturday morning in September, they showed up armed with shovels, weed eaters and other equipment ready to spruce up the Teeter Unit grounds. They spent several hours working with Club staff members to freshen up the playground and side yards, trim trees, and paint the staff restrooms.

Special thanks to Browne Distributors for donating two loads of mulch for the side yards and playground!



Several volunteers from local Target stores, led by Shiloh from the Lady Lake store, also volunteered their free time for a Day of Caring.

On an afternoon in November, the Target volunteers came out to the Teeter Unit and spent time helping kids in the Homework Room, and putting together a jungle-themed bulletin board.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Surge of Support Invigorates Christmas Program

All Applicants Received Help Through Adopt-A-Family

Thanks to your support, the Christmas 2007 Adopt-A-Family program was a huge success! All 34 families that applied were either adopted by a donor or received help from the cash contributions thanks to an outpouring of support close to Christmas. The goal was to help parents give their children a happy holiday, but many donors also made it possible for the parents to benefit as well. In all, 84 children from our communities enjoyed a brighter Christmas. Thank you to all of our contributors - without you this program would not be possible!

Adrid Family

Bartch Family

BESCO Electric

Doug & Donna Braun

Carlyle Family

CenterState Bank

Colonial Bank

Garry & Dianna Cornwell

Ann Marie Couture

The Daily Commercial

Gabriel's Beauty Salon

Bob & Martha Hartman

Hinckley CurbScapes, Inc.

Holton/Soca Family

Jimenez Family

Lady Lake Police Department

Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce

Leesburg Chamber of Commerce Leads Group

Sandy Niedzwiecki

Carol Olson

Padgett, Wetts & Young, P.A.

Karen Purvis/Utility Technicians

Quarter Mania

Diane Roberts

Singles Club of Royal Highlands

Eddie & Leigh Skehan

Teena Stoneking

United Southern Bank

Vic's Embers



Kids Corner

The members at the NE Lake Unit enjoy the variety of activities the Club offers, including a partnership with the Boy Scouts that involves both boys and girls in some of the activities. Here's what a few of the kids have to say:



Hi, I am Jacob, and I went on the best field trip ever, and if you want to know what it is, wait one hour. I am kidding, it was the Corn Maze. The Maze was so much fun that if you make one mistake, you are done for. I was in Coach Alex's group. Coach Ivan's group was the first ones done and out. Ours were the last ones out but the second ones done. And I bet you that everybody got lost at least once.

- Jacob, 11



The Boy Scouts were kind enough to take some of the boys fishing with them at the lake behind the Club. Almost all the boys caught fish (bluegills, bass, etc.) and had a great time doing so! Even I caught some! (and that's saying something!). With bait from minnows to stale bread, many fish were caught. To make sure that there were fish left for other children, we released all that we caught. At the B&G Clubs there is always something interesting to do!

- Alex, 13 (Leader In Training)



The best day ever was today. My favorite part was going canoeing. It was very fun but my friend Lauren almost tipped us over and we were screaming and he [Chris, the Boy Scout leader] had to come out on his boat and get us because Lauren did not know how to paddle and finally we made it through all the way back to the shore and Lauren finally knew how to paddle after that happened on our way out of the boat. Lauren fell on her way up the hill and she had to get out of the water and we went to go get our shoes on and lined up to go to the next rotation and me and her were soaking wet and that was the best day in the boat that we have ever been in before we are best friends. I will always remember that.

- Rebecca, 11

Clubs Expand Sports Programs

New Offerings to Include Soccer and Flag Football

The Teeter Unit is expanding the sports programs to include basketball, soccer and flag football. The final result will be intramural leagues comprised of member teams that practice and compete on a schedule that will not interfere with scholastic and city league seasons.

“We want all interested members to be able to participate, so the schedules are being set up to work around other sports schedules,” said Alicia Brinson, Teeter Unit Director. “We don’t want to make them have to choose.”

Each sport will start with a week-long camp, where kids will learn the fundamentals of the sport. From there, teams will be formed to compete with each other in an intramural league. The only qualification necessary to participate is a Club membership.



Above: Kids playing basketball in the Teeter Unit gym.



Left: Program staff member Gerard prepares flags for flag football.



Below: A Club member guards the new soccer goal at NE Lake Unit.

“For the last two years our sports program has been limited to improvised field sports,” explains Robb Elmatti, NE Lake Unit Director.

Thanks to a joint effort between the Alee Academy Student Council and the Club (which is housed in the school), they now have an official soccer field with goals and can participate in the intramural soccer league. Robb hopes they’ll eventually have the facilities to be able to participate in the other sports as well.

“Our wish list for special projects includes an outdoor basketball court,” Robb noted. “We would like to eventually join in with the other intramural leagues, too.” Thanks to the hard work of Advisory Council members Bob and Martha Hartman, that dream of a basketball court may become a reality in the near future. “All of the materials have been donated, we just need to find a way to get labor, goals and painting,” said Robb.



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In Comes the New...

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Corporate Board members:

Jay Hurley	Trueman's Fine Men's Clothing
J. Scott Berry	J. Scott's Skin Care & Day Spa
Mandy Wettstein	Baker-Wettstein Public Relations

The Corporate Board of Directors oversees the entire organization, from establishing policy and planning and approving goals and budgets, to raising funds and overseeing the organization's assets.

The NE Lake Advisory Council recently named new officers:

Chairman Rob Adrid, United Southern Bank
Vice-Chairman Karen Purvis*, Utility Technicians
Secretary & Treasurer Teena Stoneking, United Southern Bank

The Unit Advisory Council is responsible for fundraising and community awareness for its respective unit. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Council, please contact the Unit Director.

*Also joined Corporate Board as a NE Lake representative.

Alicia Brinson *Teeter Unit Director*

The Teeter Unit welcomed Alicia Brinson as the new full-time Unit Director in November.

Alicia replaced Marcus Niblack, who accepted a position with the City of Leesburg running the new city gymnasium.



Alicia began as a part-time program staff member in 2006, and was promoted to Program Director last summer. Prior to joining the Club full-time, she taught in Marion County and Lake County schools for over 6 years. "I started at the Boys & Girls Clubs because I love children, but when I stayed around a little longer, I realized my role as an educator in the school system was only a part of the puzzle in making an impact on children, the Boys & Girls Clubs did the rest," she says.

When asked about her vision for the future, she says, "I want to make the Boys & Girls Clubs a choice, not an alternative. I want this place to be the first choice for parents for their children, not a place to go because all other avenues were exhausted."