



SPiRiT of the Future



Kids Corner

What the Club Really Means to Members

The Quarterly Newsletter of The



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

TEETER UNIT

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Jaliah will be in 6th grade next year, and is a member at the NE Lake County Unit.

Hi, my name is Jaliah Maple, and I'm going to tell you about the best place for kids - it's the Boys & Girls Club! The BGC has always been my favorite place to go after school

because it is a place where everybody (even the staff) can have fun. Besides the fact that BGC is fun and relaxing, it can also give a kid somewhere to go when school is closed for a teacher workday, spring break, etc.

Things that make the Club so wonderful and fun are field trips, the gamesroom, Technology Center, art, and Power Hour. These things, along with the staff, are what I think keep kids coming back and joining the Club.



Congratulations to Zulekia Corona and Amala Ekpunobi! Both first-graders and members at the NE Lake Unit, they won trophies for the reading program at Eustis Elementary School for reading 75 books each. The girls read some of the books at the Club in the Homework room after they finished homework. Amala said she and Zulekia would encourage each other to read the books from their list while at the Club. "Once Zulekia joined the Club we got together on the project," she said.

Supporting the Programs

The members that attend the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties pay minimal dues. The reason for this? It is the philosophy of the Clubs to make membership affordable for everyone.

Our members pay a \$25.00 registration fee for the entire year. This includes their membership for after-school, school breaks and the summer program. Additionally, there is a summer fee of \$100.00 for our 12 week program. This \$100.00 provides a safe and "Positive Place For Kids" from 7am to 6pm each weekday, plus lunch and an afternoon snack. For families with two or more children, the maximum fee is \$200 per family.

Many people wonder how we are able to provide such a wonderful program for such low fees. The reason is that we have dedicated donors and a Board of Directors who believe in our mission "To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who

need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens" and therefore, work tirelessly on fundraising efforts.

The United Way, City of Leesburg, Lake County Children's Service Council, Orlando Sentinel, Office of Justice Programs, Disney, Department of Education, Department of Health, Publix Charities, local Foundations and individual donors have all helped fund our programs. We thank our contributors for their dedication and continued support. Without them and you, we would not be able to continue to provide this much needed service in your community.



Kristen Barch-Knight

Chief Professional Officer

CLARIFICATION

The International Buffet article in the Spring issue, incorrectly listed Africa as one of the countries represented at the event. To clarify, the continent of Africa was represented by the countries Egypt and Kenya. We apologize for the confusion!

Villagers Salute The Songs of Richard Rodgers

Proceeds to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties

August 23, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Savannah Center

\$12 for Villages residents, \$14.50 for non-residents

Tickets are available at The Villages Box Office
or online at www.thevillages.net/boxoffice

Call (352) 753-3229 for more information

Donor of the Quarter



We are proud to introduce a new section to our newsletter - "Donor of the Quarter". Our first Donor of the Quarter is Walt Disney World, who on May 14, 2007 presented the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties with a \$12,000 "Disney Helping Kids Shine" grant for our FUTURES program. The Club was chosen for this award by a panel of judges that included Central Florida community leaders and Walt Disney World employees. Thank you Disney!!

Golf Marathon Benefits Clubs



On May 11, members of the Corporate Board of Directors and other community members joined forces to hold the First Annual Golf Marathon at Arlington Ridge in Leesburg to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties.

"The marathon format allows golfers to raise money based on pledges per hole, or a flat donation amount. The golfers start at sunrise and play as many holes as they can before sunset," explained Beth Work, Chief Professional Officer.

This year's marathon included 10 golfers representing both Units - Eric English, Brandon English, Clark Saylor, Jay Bartholomew, Dean Simmons, and Matt Beck represented the Teeter Unit; Don Welsh, Bill O'Brien, Charlie Green and Rob Adrid represented the NE Lake Unit. Bill O'Brien raised the most money for the event, and the NE Lake group ended up golfing 86 holes winning the Most Holes Played award. Overall, the marathon raised over \$9,000 for the Clubs.

Board member Eric English headed up the planning of this year's marathon. "The First Annual Golf Marathon was a success and we look forward to growing the event each year. Thank you to all the people who participated in the golf marathon and to the volunteers for their time," he said. A great big thank you also goes out to the staff at Arlington Ridge for helping make the event a success!



Sticker Shock



The Lake County Sticker Shock Project, known simply as Sticker Shock, is a county wide public awareness campaign in which stickers are placed on multi-packs of beer, wine coolers and other alcohol products that appeal to underage drinkers. On May 12, the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter at the Teeter Unit teamed up with other SADD chapters and the Lake County Sheriff's Department to participate in this year's Sticker Shock.

The goal of this project, which is coordinated by the Safe Climate Coalition of Lake County, is to reach adults who might purchase alcohol legally and provide it to minors. The project builds collaboration among youth, retailers, concerned parents, community members and law enforcement and prevention professionals.

Making a Difference

Congratulations to our winners for Youth of the Month and Staff of the Month for the second quarter!

April - Bryana Coleman (youth), Tina Lofters (staff)

May - Savannah Nickerson (youth), Sarah Poitevent (staff)

June - Sam Solomon (youth), Nick Westley (staff)



The Future Is Here

The Boys & Girls Clubs play a big part in the lives of our members. The Teeter Unit is celebrating our Club members who have graduated from high school as part of the Class of 2007. Some of the kids have worked their way from member to staff, and others have become involved with the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) through the Club. The common denominator is that they all were brought up in the Club, and all have a bright future ahead of them.

Congratulations to the following members who recently graduated from high school:

Domanique Callahan

Jarrell Douglass

Scott LaBelle

*Tina Lofter**

Marquez Porter

*Matt Shepherd**

Cynthia Wallace

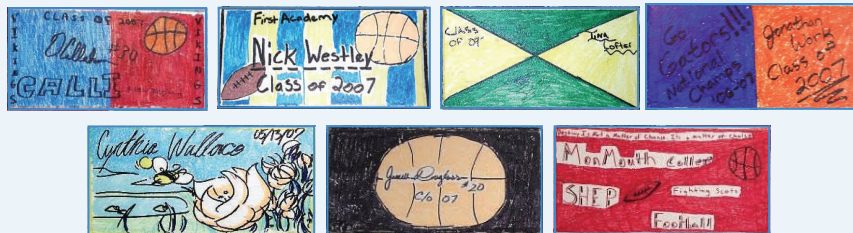
*Nick Westley **

*Jonathan Work**

**pictured below*



Visitors to the Teeter Unit will notice a new feature behind the check in desk - we call it the **Graduation Wall of Fame**. Each member who graduates from high school is invited to decorate a brick on the wall as a celebration of their accomplishment.



Domanique Callahan - Leesburg High School

Domanique will be attending St. John's River Community College next year to play basketball. He has been coming to the Club since the 6th grade. "This is a good place with a good staff," he said. "It's meant a lot to me and kept me out of trouble."

Scott LaBelle - Mount Dora High School

Scott has been coming to the Club since 4th grade, and credits it for keeping him out of trouble. "It's a good place to go and keeps me focused," he said. Scott has been involved in the AAU basketball program, and will be attending Thiel College in Greenville, PA on a basketball scholarship next year.

Marquez Porter - Leesburg High School

"This is the place to play basketball and make friends," said Marquez. He's been coming to the Club since he was in 4th grade and he played Little League here, and is now involved in the AAU basketball program. Marquez will be attending Pierce College next year.

Matt Shepherd - Leesburg High School

Matt will be attending Monmouth College next year to play football and basketball. He is currently involved in the AAU basketball program through the Club. "I've been coming to the Club forever - ever since I could dribble a basketball. It means everything, it's where I grew up, where I established friends. Anytime I needed anything, I knew I could come here." This summer, Matt is making the transition from member to staff at the Teeter Unit.

Jonathan Work - Leesburg High School

Jonathan has been coming to the Club for 8 years. "The Club has been a place to make friends, play sports, learn new things and have fun," he said. "I have enjoyed my years here." Jonathan will be attending Lake-Sumter Community College next year.

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: ____ / ____

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A Note from Kristen Bartch Knight Board President

A lot of us throw away or overlook more opportunities in a lifetime than others ever even have put before them.

And yet each of us can remember a person, an event or an experience that was critical in forming who we now are, what choices we have made in our life and what opportunities we saw in our future.

For a lot of children, the Club provides this person, event and experience and that is a wonderful thing. However, there are kids that we have to turn away due to lack of space and there are activities we cannot offer because we don't have the excess funds. So there are kids that don't get to hang out at the club all summer or after school because we are maxed out on space or don't have a club in their neighborhood, there are kids that can't afford the field trips because we have to charge a minimal fee instead of offering them for free. I think that it is in OUR power to change this by raising MORE money, getting our message to MORE people, and letting our ENTIRE community know the good our staff and clubs do every day. So tell someone you know how we're changing the world – How YOU are changing the world ... One child at a time.



Don't forget!

**Annual Auction and
Black and White Ball
August 25, 2007**

*For tickets, information, or to host a table,
please call the Club at (352) 787-0053*