

FALL 2022

Posted.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF OSHKOSH NEWS

Members celebrated their completion of the Michael Phelps Foundation swim program with their teachers from the Oshkosh YMCA.

INSIDE

Learn about ways you can help Club families during the holiday season!



Whatever It Takes to Build Great Futures



The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has served the community for over 50 years by keeping to its mission of improving the lives of children and families. In the last few years, the number of kids the Club serves has been growing. Currently, over 800 children use Club services each day and the average daily attendance has been up 70%. With the Club at capacity, we will be undergoing a \$16 million-dollar building expansion in order to better serve the needs of children and families.

The 5-part capital project, led by contractor and long-time friend CR Meyer, will include an expansion of the classroom space in the Radford Center side of the building (ages 6-10) that will double the number of children the classrooms can serve to 80. The Club's current Teen Center will be renovated along with the current administrative offices to double the middle school program space (ages 10-12). A new addition will include a second-floor teen space (for ages 13-18) separate from the elementary and middle school children, a new administrative wing, and a community center for other local agencies to come together and

collaborate to better serve families. A second gym and a new outdoor space, including a new playground, a courtyard, and an all-purpose field, will be added to better accommodate the 300 plus children the Club serves daily. With the new expansion, the Club will be able to serve an additional 150 youth daily.

"It has been 18 years since our last major capital campaign building project," said Mark Lasky, campaign chair and board member at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. "The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh continues to meet the needs of children and families in our community and serve as stewards of the public's trust in us. This expansion project will allow us to collaborate with existing agencies with expertise and create self-sustaining skills and resources for the kids and families we impact."

The Club serves about 1,800 children each year through direct service and is one of the largest agencies in Oshkosh that provides basic needs to Club members and their families. The Club provides onsite showers, clothing support, hygiene supply support,

back-to-school support, rental and bill assistance, meals, mental health services, and more, all for an annual fee of only \$25 per child. The goal is to make sure families who are receiving these services are then working their way to self-sufficiency.

"This is going to be a transformational project, not just for the kids and families we serve, but for many others in the community that will use the services provided by the Club and the other organizations who will be located in the new building's community center," said Tracy Ogden, CEO at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. "Now is the time when we're looking to the community, who has always rallied behind us, to support us in this next important phase for the Club."

For tours of the Club or to make a gift contact CEO, Tracy Ogden, at (920) 233-1414 ext. 116 or tracyo@bgcosh.org. Gifts to the building project can also be made online at bgcosh.org.

SAVE THE DATE

▶ OCT 25

▶ OCT 27

▶ NOV 17

▶ NOV 24

▶ DEC 20

Halloween
Party

Youth of the
Year Dinner

Thanksgiving
Family Night

Festival Foods
Turkey Trot

Christmas
Party



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF OSHKOSH



MESSAGE FROM CEO

Dear Friends of the Boys & Girls Club,

We're excited to be able to go public with our campaign for our building project! We'd like to thank the City of Oshkosh and the many individuals and local businesses that have pledged or given to the campaign so far.

If you come to visit the Club this fall, you're going to see the expansion of our Radford classrooms (ages 6-10) is underway. The expansion is going to double our classroom space and increase the number of kids we can serve in Radford from 40 to 80.

We're looking forward to updating you as the building project progresses.

Our staff is fully focused on educational programming like STEM, Math Hoops, college preparation, career exploration and additional academic tutoring. In partnership with Anytime Fitness, members will get to take part in a unique experience, Mascot and Fitness Camps. Our Director of Social & Emotional Wellness has been delivering mental wellness and social skills programming to all of our youth and is giving dedicated one-on-one time to those that need it the most.

We hope you'll join us for our Youth of the Year Dinner on October 27th where we will celebrate members achievements in the areas of Health & Wellness, Academic Success, and Character & Leadership from over the last year. Each youth glows with confidence when they come up on stage to be recognized in front of their family, teachers, Club staff, and peers.

I welcome you to visit us and take a tour so you can see first-hand the wonderful things happening throughout the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. To schedule a tour please contact me at (920) 233-1414, ext. 116 or tracyo@bgcosh.org

Also, make sure to check out our website blog and our social media pages to keep up with all things happening at the Club. Thank you for your continued support in helping us serve our mission!

Tracy Ogden, CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Oshkosh, Inc.

Club girls celebrated their completion of our summer Character, Etiquette & Afternoon Tea Program. Girls learned about giving back, celebrating differences, self-expression, positive self-esteem, and much more! At Tea they heard an inspiring message from speaker, Ali Starr.



15 teens participated in our Teens 2 Work Program at EAA. They went through the interview process, job training, got on-the-job experience and received a paycheck. Thank you to Bobalu Enterprises for partnering with us!



Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Alumni Raise \$12,000 in Support of their Club

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Alumni Association held its 1st annual golf outing fundraiser, sponsored by NTD, on August 14th. The group is happy to announce they raised \$12,000 to support their Club and the Club's camp, Camp Radford!

The Alumni group would like to thank those that supported the event including our sponsors: Presenting Sponsor - NTD, Cart Sponsor - Spring Loaded LLC, Golf Course Sponsor - Far Vu Golf Course, Social Hour Sponsor - Oshkosh City Tavern League, Lunch Sponsor - Retro's Pub, Prize Sponsors - 4imprint, Corner Bar & Grill, Culver's on Westowne Ave. and thank you to all of our Hole and Tee sponsors.



Our K-2 youth took a field trip to Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan over summer. The garden is inspired by children's literature and our kids really loved feeling like they were right inside some of their favorite fairytales!



Presented by



The Youth of the Year Dinner, sponsored by Amcor, is on Thurs., October 27th from 6-8 p.m. at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center. Donors, teachers, mentors, alumni, and special friends of the Club are encouraged to join us in celebrating the achievements of Club members and the Youth of the Year!

Reservations can be made online at bgcosh.org or by contacting Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives Katie Talken at katie@bgcosh.org. If you are unable to join us, we hope you will consider supporting the event by sponsoring a family to attend, through corporate sponsorship, or by making a general donation.

Thank you to our sponsors: Presenting Sponsor - Amcor, Dinner Sponsor - TDS, Dessert Sponsor - Pinnow Sheet Metal, Red Carpet Sponsor - Shea Electric & Communications, LLC, Recognition Sponsor - 4imprint, and all of our sponsors for making this night possible.



Teens went on a college overnight and toured UW Superior, UM Duluth, and St. Scholastica. The teens got to experience a night of living in the resident halls of UW Superior.

Ways to Support the Club this Holiday Season



The 15th annual Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24th. The five-mile run and two-mile walk/run and dog jog, will begin at 8 a.m. at the Oshkosh Seniors Center. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and Oshkosh Community YMCA. Register and find pricing online at www.festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com. Early bird registration runs until Oct. 31st. Participants will receive a free t-shirt and a Festival Foods 5" Upper Crust pumpkin pie.

Volunteer to help make this event a success! Sign up online and choose "Boys & Girls Club" under "organization you are affiliated with". Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt.

Thanksgiving Meals

Many Club families will not sit down together and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal this year because they cannot afford it or are unable to prepare it. Festival Foods will provide ready, prepared Thanksgiving Day meals to Boys & Girls Club families in need. If you are interested in purchasing a meal for a Club family, please contact CEO Tracy Ogden at (920) 233-1414, ext. 116 or tracyo@bgcosh.org by Wed., Nov. 16th. The Club will coordinate the delivery of the meals to our families.

★ To see more photos of the exciting things taking place at our Club, please visit our Facebook page. ★

Adopt-A-Family

With help from kind and generous donors like you, we can make the holidays brighter for Club families through our Adopt a Family program. Families, referred to the program by full-time staff, create wish lists for each child (basic needs items, clothing, and even toys). The Club matches each family with a donor and provides the donor with the family's wish lists so they can shop and wrap gifts for their adopted family.

To participate in Adopt a Family, contact Development & Grants Coordinator Bethany Ferguson at (920) 233-1414, ext. 122, or bethanyf@bgcosh.org. **Donors and family matches start in October and go until early December as families become available.** Last year the Club was able to give over 215 Club youth a Merry Christmas!



Members Get Musical through Summer Ukulele Program

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh received a grant from Guitars 4 Gifts to purchase ten ukuleles for a summer music program.

Twenty 4th-grade members from the Club's Peace Adventure program participated. For some Club members, learning to play a musical instrument is brand new since the purchase of an instrument and lessons can be costly and not feasible for everyone.



Through being presented with a challenge like learning an instrument, youth grow their skills set and work towards goals they want to achieve. They learned how to read basic music tablatures and how to care for the instrument. It also offers them an outlet to express themselves.

"It's been a few years since the Club has been able to offer a music program," said Jessica McKenna, the Boys & Girls Club's coordinator for the program. "I can already see the positive impact this program has made on our members in just a few short months. For some, it's been a great stress relief tool, while others have used it as a way to make new friendships. It has even helped bring some of our members out of their shells!"

The Club's goal is to be able to continue this program during the school year and into next summer. Thank you to Guitars 4 Gifts for allowing the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh to provide this program to our youth.

Looking for other ways to support Club members? We are in need of winter waterproof mittens & boots for all ages, or give the gift of a donation to the Club by completing the donation form below:

☐ Yes! I would like to contribute a General Donation

☐ Yes! I would like to contribute to the club's Whatever It Takes to Build Great Futures Building Project

☐ \$5,000	☐ \$2,500
☐ \$1,000	☐ \$500
☐ \$200	☐ \$500
☐ \$50	☐ Other \$ _____

For additional information or questions, please contact (920) 233-1414 or info@bgcosh.org.

Payment Method

☐ One time payment is enclosed

☐ I'd like to make a pledge, please contact me.

☐ One time payment should be charged to my credit card

☐ I'd like to set up (ACH) regular electronic fund transfers. Please contact me for details.

Name _____

As you would like it to appear on our funding highlights webpage.

E-mail Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Credit Card Type:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Mail donation form to Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, 501 E. Parkway Avenue, PO box 411, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Donations can also be made online at www.bgcosh.org through a safe and secured network. 



GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#).

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MISSION

To improve the lives of children and families.

VISION

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh will be a generation-changing leading provider of programs emphasizing youth development services and family outreach support to meet the needs of young people 6-18 and their families, especially those who need us most.



When members head to Camp Radford, the Club's day camp, they get to learn sports like archery, cook over an open fire, and learn special skills such as tree identification.

CONTACT US!

Phone: (920) 233-1414 | Fax: (920) 233-1816 | Email: info@bgcosh.org

Big Futures Match Highlight

Meet Jamya and her mentor, Carol. They recently had some fun making cake pops together! Jamya is 11 years old and desires to become a doctor or nurse when she grows up. She's interested in gymnastics and wants to learn more about baking with her mentor.



"Jamya's smile just glows," says Carol, the Operations Director for The Howard. "It has been incredibly fulfilling to find this passion within her and give her the creative space to let it flourish. We are having fun with recipes, and I have enjoyed seeing Jamya's spirit of sharing in her creations and her excitement for them. Being a mentor allows you opportunities to spark joy in some amazing humans, often showing them that joy can be found in simple things like making a cake pop!"

The Big Futures Mentoring Program is a collaborative effort of the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin that matches adult mentors with youth in 6th through 8th grade at the Boys & Girls Club. The program focuses on:

- Academic support
- Leadership and social skill development
- Building on current career interests
- Fun activities, plus much more

[Learn more about how to become a Big Futures Mentor at \[bgcosh.org\]\(http://bgcosh.org\)](#)

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