

SUMMER 2021

# Posted.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF OSHKOSH NEWS

Members had fun coloring puzzle pieces as part of Youth for Unity, which focuses on diversity and inclusion. Each member drew something on their puzzle piece that is unique to them. The puzzle pieces were then put together to show that even though we are different we can all fit together.



INSIDE



Learn about new programming and upcoming events!



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**WineFeast, sponsored by Community First Credit Union, is back as an in-person event this year and will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, October 30th.**

WineFeast reservations include both the Cellar Select dinner (sponsored by CR Meyer) and the private post dinner Night Cap event (sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive).

Cellar Select (sponsored by the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel) is a relaxing five course dinner and wine pairing (sponsored by Baker Tilly) experience which begins with a champagne reception promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner will feature five mouth-watering courses including a salad provided by Greene's Pour House at the Granary, an appetizer provided by Gabe's Wisconsin Kitchen and Tavern, soup, an entrée provided by the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and dessert provided by Suzy's Cream Cheesecakes.

During dinner, guests will enjoy an exciting live auction (sponsored by First Weber Foundation) and a short program including a mission moment video (sponsored by MARCO Promos) and a story from our 2021 Youth of the Year about the impact the Boys & Girls Club has on Oshkosh youth and families and how Great Futures start at the Club (sponsored by Oshkosh Corporation).

Night Cap is exclusively open to Cellar Select guests only following Cellar Select at 8:00 p.m. and will feature the smooth jazz sounds of the Mike Kubicki Quartet (sponsored by Menasha Corporation Foundation) and the opportunity to sample wine, domestic and imported brews and delicious light appetizers from a number of your favorite local restaurants. Guests will receive a complimentary Riedel red wine glass (sponsored by Miron Construction).

There is also a silent auction (sponsored by Verve, a Credit Union) with over 50 unique items. Back this year is the Grocery, Gas and Gear Raffle (sponsored by Craft Coating). Plus, a wine raffle (sponsored by Festival Foods), Faris Gourmet Popcorn, Hughes' Home Maid Chocolates, and Simon Cheese raffle opportunities (sponsored by Silver Star Brands).

All proceeds from WineFeast go to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and directly benefit families and children in our community who most need the services the Club provides. This includes healthy meals and snacks, homework help, basic needs support, one on one mentoring and quality programming that focuses on STEM, staying active, and building character and leadership skills.

WineFeast reservations cost \$125 per person and tables of eight are available for \$1,000. Reservations include the Cellar Select dinner and a full-access pass to Night Cap.

**To purchase reservations for WineFeast, please visit the Boys & Girls Club online at [bgcosh.org](http://bgcosh.org).**

To learn about sponsorship or volunteer opportunities or for other questions, contact Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives, Katie Talken at (920) 233-1414, ext. 129 or [katiet@bgcosh.org](mailto:katiet@bgcosh.org).

WineFeast is in need of both silent and live auction items. Donating auction items gives businesses and individuals the opportunity to display their product and get free advertising. For more information on donating an auction item, please contact WineFeast Auction Coordinator Heather Holly-Pinnow at [WineFeastAuction@bgcosh.org](mailto:WineFeastAuction@bgcosh.org).

SAVE THE DATE

▶ JULY 14

Afternoon Tea

▶ OCTOBER 30

WineFeast

WINEFEAST 2022

Save the date for Saturday, April 2nd!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF OSHKOSH



## Dear Friends of the Boys & Girls Club,

Summer at the Club is just getting underway. We're very excited to get back to a sense of normalcy in our programming. While we

are still being mindful of the safety of our members, we've been able to expand the number of kids per classroom. Our Radford summer program is full and as I'm writing this we only have a few remaining spots for our teens and tweens!

The Peace Adventure Program hosted by Peace Lutheran Church is in its second year of hosting ages 7-12 and we have a great new partnership with the Oshkosh Community YMCA for teens. Two days of the week, they will participate in various programs at the Oshkosh Y locations and use the workout facility, gym, pool, teaching kitchen, and other recreation areas in the building. Each of our age groups will get the chance to participate in some really fun field trips over summer. In addition, Noah, our Fitness and Health Coordinator, is putting together summer sports leagues again.

Summer also brings back our Character & Etiquette classes for girls ages 7-10. We enjoy watching them grow and celebrating their completion of the program at the Afternoon Tea event in July.

Our staff loved having members back in the Club for Spring Break. Members participated in an Easter egg hunt, painted eggs and did other Easter themed activities and crafts. They learned all about space during STEM learning, took part in a cooking competition and played dodgeball with Oshkosh Police.

We've started a new bus route that picks kids up from Oaklawn Elementary School (currently 25 kids are signed up) and brings them to the Club. We will soon be discussing expanding bussing to other elementary schools in the area.

We have some big news for fall! We've partnered with the School District of Omro to offer after-school programming to both Omro Elementary School and H.B. Patch Elementary School. You'll read more about the Omro program in this newsletter.

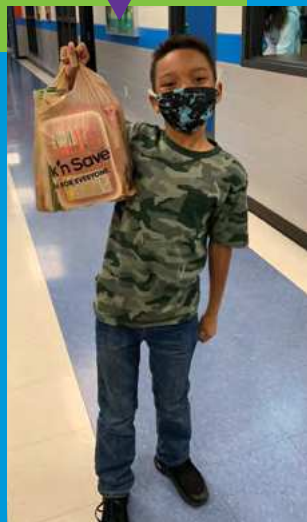
All of these great partnerships help us to serve our youth even better! Make sure to check out our website blog and our social media pages to see all the amazing things happening at the Club. Thank you for your continued support in helping us serve our mission!

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

From March through May we held Wednesday Club Nights in the Teen Center. High school and middle school age members participated in a variety of activities, including time in the gym and kitchen. Here members tested their cooking creativity during a Chopped Cooking Competition.



Oshkosh Service League held a spaghetti dinner drive and delivered 50 Meal Kits to our Club families.



## Omro After-School Program

**We're excited to partner with the School District of Omro to offer an after-school program for students this fall.**

Students from Omro Elementary School and H.B. Patch Elementary School in kindergarten through 5th grade can take part in the programming that will include homework help, STEM learning, arts and crafts, time in the gym and on the playground, field trips, learning from community partner volunteers, and more.

The after-school program will be held at Omro Elementary School, with students being bussed from H.B. Patch Elementary School. Programming will run from the end of the school day (early release Wednesdays included) until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, September 1st through June 3rd. We're currently looking at expanding this through the summer to make it a year-round program.

"The School District of Omro is very excited to be working with the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh to develop a quality after-school program for elementary students. We look forward to a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club that will allow us to meet the needs of the families in our community. We hope that the new program is a "win" for all those involved," said Dr. Jay Jones, School District of Omro Superintendent.

Registration will begin in May. The program will cost \$10.00 per child per day that the child attends the program, along with a paid membership to the Club. The program will also accept childcare assistance like other licensed childcare centers.

Club Mentor and Mentee matches are meeting in person at the club again. Samantha and her mentor, Mary, made cookies from scratch in the Club kitchen.



On Easter Friday, all members took part in an Easter egg hunt outdoors where they could find candy and eggs. Then members got to turn their eggs in for prizes. They finished out the day with some egg painting.

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



Presented by



## The Etiquette, Character & Afternoon Tea program is in its eleventh year at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh!

The Etiquette, Character & Afternoon Tea program is designed especially for young ladies and this year focuses on girls ages 7-10. It encourages them to be proud of the unique people they are and helps them develop positive character and leadership skills.

Girls in the program attend 6 classes taught by friends of the Club that are focused on building character and healthy lifestyles. The classes will cover a variety of topics including manners, self-esteem, how to dress appropriately for special events, how to treat yourself and others with respect and much more.

We are excited to bring back the Afternoon Tea event this summer as a reward for the young ladies who complete the classes. The Tea, presented by Kimberly-Clark Foundation, will take place on Wednesday, July 14th at the Oshkosh Country Club. The Tea brings together the girls and local women to sip tea, chat and celebrate the girls' completion of the classes. It is a great opportunity for the community to see the difference the Club makes in the lives of youth.

Walking into the room at the Afternoon Tea each year, the girls are always so joyful and excited. Also, as a part of the program, the girls receive new sundresses to wear to the Tea. To top it off, they even get their hair professionally styled by local stylists! They are so proud of their class accomplishments, feel so confident in their dresses and special hairstyles, and enjoy chatting and sharing their Club experiences with the women at their tables.

In the past, the Afternoon Tea has featured amazing speakers from 2012 Miss America, Laura Kaeppler, entrepreneur and co-founder of Culver's restaurant, Lea Culver, local jazz sensation, Janet Planet, Sarah Schmidt, former director of U.S. Venture, Inc., Shannon Bahrke Happe, American Olympic freestyle skier, and Emily Deem, co-anchor for FOX 11's morning show Good Day Wisconsin.

This year's speaker is Mona Dixon. Mona was homeless sleeping on the streets and in shelters until age 13. A few short

years later she received the coveted Boys & Girls Clubs of America "National Youth of the Year Award," and was appointed to serve as the youngest member of the U.S. Presidential Committee. Mona will be holding a workshop for Boys & Girls Club teens on July 15th. You can learn more about Mona at: [monadixon.com](http://monadixon.com).

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved in this event, please contact Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives, Katie Talken at [katiet@bgcosh.org](mailto:katiet@bgcosh.org) or at 920-233-1414 ext. 129.

Stylists are needed to help create simple updos for the girls the day of the Tea. If you are interested in styling hair for this event, please contact Development & Grant Coordinator, Alex Fischer at 920-233-1414, ext. 121 or [alexandraf@bgcosh.org](mailto:alexandraf@bgcosh.org).



◀ Mona Dixon

## Be Great Graduate

The Be Great Graduate Program is blossoming! From the beginning of last summer to spring, students have excelled academically. We have recorded a 12% increase in language art course grades, a 22% increase in mathematical course grades, and a 44% increase in seniors graduating on time. Having gone through a pandemic, these students stepped it up and hung in there and we at the Boys & Girls Club could not be prouder of our members!

Students participating in the Be Great Graduate Program have had access to several college and technical school visits including Fox Valley Technical College, Marquette University, Marion University, Moraine Park Technical College, UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-La Crosse with more to come this summer. Students have also had the opportunity to virtually meet with professors from the Salon Professional Academy and will be touring more businesses this summer.

In addition to Jed Carlson, we recently added an additional full-time Graduation and Career Coordinator to Oshkosh North High School, Timothy Lange.



With two coordinators at the high school, we're now able to serve up to 40 students and starting this fall, we'll have an additional Graduation and Career Coordinator at Oshkosh West High School which will allow us to serve 60 students with this program!

This year we have nine seniors (six Be Great Graduates) who will be graduating and we wish them the best in their futures! Please join us in congratulating the following graduating seniors:

**Blessing Ajao**

**Lonzo Alvarado**

**Trenton Amundson**

**Josh Harris**

**Savana Hiltz**

**Chantell Jordan-Owens**

**Tyler Smith**

**Annabella Thiel**

Thank you to the community, alumni and sponsors for helping us celebrate 50 years on Sunday, June 6, 2021!



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Thank you to the following sponsors:

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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.



Keystone Teen Leadership Club spent the first day of spring break cleaning up the neighborhood!

## CONTACT US!

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

## Meet Our Director of Teen Services

### ▶ Sean Purtee



Sean joined the team in April 2021 as Director of Teen Services. Sean oversees all programming for teens and tweens including Be Great Graduate and our Mentoring Program. He was born and raised in Wautoma, WI and graduated from Ripon College with a degree in Sociology.

Working with teens is a passion for Sean and he feels “very lucky to have turned it into a career!” Whether it has been his past work with the Clubs at Tri-County and Milwaukee or with Upward Bound, he’s been helping to shape our youth since 2009.

In Sean’s own words, “I love helping young people grow into whatever they want to become. Seeing a young person that may have been shy or awkward grow into a social butterfly or seeing someone find their passion and develop that into a career or field of study is what brings me the greatest joy!”

Members learned all about space during STEM learning. They did several activities and learned about rockets and constellations. They also did an activity to learn about the eight phases of the moon using Oreos.



During Spring Break our members got to play dodgeball with Oshkosh police officers.

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