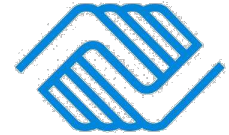


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 22, 2023**

**Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center and J. Wilcox Head Start**

{Oshkosh, WI} – The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Friday, September 22, to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of its building project, the Radford Center expansion of the Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center classrooms, and full renovation of J. Wilcox Head Start. This is part of the Club’s \$18 million-dollar building expansion.

The Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center, was completed in February. The classrooms allow the Club to double the number of elementary-age members we can serve to 80 youth daily. In this part of the Club, kids create art and crafts, do STEM activities, participate in social and emotional learning and other structured programs.

It was an honor to announce the renaming of UW Oshkosh’s Head Start to J. Wilcox Head Start after longtime former UW Oshkosh Head Start Director Joyce Wilcox and the Club’s longtime Director of Facilities Jamie Wilcox.

“It was exciting to celebrate the completion of the Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center as the first piece of our building project and to get to add more children to our program and off our waitlist,” said CEO Tracy Odgen. “In addition, we were overjoyed to celebrate the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and Head Start partnership today and to honor Joyce and her son, Jamie for their dedication to our mission and so that future generations will always know the impact they both had.”

Head Start completed a renovation of all three floors of the building it leases from the Club in September, increasing classroom space from four to six rooms (housing 120 kids) that the Club will use during non-school hours. The center went from one to two playgrounds, increasing access to the outdoors, fresh air, and more time for large motor experiences. The entrance moved to Monroe Street, and a safer circle drive and more parking were added.

“UW Oshkosh and Head Start continues our 25-year relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh to serve children and families in the Oshkosh Community, said Head Start Director Lynn Hammen. “This major renovation of the J. Wilcox Head Start center will provide a safer and healthier environment and provide more classroom space for Oshkosh children and families for years to come.”

Thank you to John and Tim Bergstrom, Peter, Scott, and David Radford, UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Levitt, and the Wilcox family for celebrating with us today!

For tours of the Club or to make a gift to the building project contact CEO, Tracy Odgen, at (920) 233-1414 ext. 116 or [tracyo@bgcosh.org](mailto:tracyo@bgcosh.org). Gifts to the building project can also be made online at [bgcosh.org](http://bgcosh.org). We welcome community visitors and encourage you to tour our Club and

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see first-hand how on a daily basis we are changing and improving the lives of children in our community.

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**About the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Building Expansion & Hyde Family Community Center:** The 5-part capital project, led by contractor and long-time friend CR Meyer, includes an expansion of the classroom space in the Radford Center side of the building (ages 6-10), the Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center, a new Oshkosh B'gosh Middle School Center (ages 10-12), a new addition that houses the Verve Administrative Center, including admin offices, a second-floor Amcor Teen Center (ages 13-18) and the Hyde Family Community Center. A second gym, a new JR & Suzanne Vette Playground, and the Community First Credit Union Multi-Purpose Field (completed in June) help better accommodate the 300 plus children the Club serves daily.

**About the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh:** For over 50 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has provided young people with a safe place to learn and grow and currently serves over 3,000 local youth through membership and outreach. The Club offers a dynamic learning environment that includes many age-appropriate programs, mentoring by caring adult professionals and outstanding facilities, all for an annual fee of only \$25 per child. By providing safe facilities, caring adults, and engaging activities, we help each young person realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, please contact the Club at (920) 233-1414, visit the Club online at [bgcosh.org](http://bgcosh.org) or find the Club on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube (@BGCOSH).

As always, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is a United Way Agency.

### **About UW Oshkosh Head Start**

UW Oshkosh Head Start serves almost 400 families, with 130 employees, across four counties, Calumet, Shawano Outagamie and here in Winnebago county. Head Start is a provider of excellence in Early Childhood comprehensive services, and represents UW Oshkosh's commitment to collaborate in the community and to advance education, even in the early years, helping students achieve their greatest potential with transformational experiences like, Head Start. Head Start is a part of UW Oshkosh as a federally funded grant program for over 57 years.

The J. Wilcox renovation was a 2.3M project shared by both UW Oshkosh Head Start and the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh. Head Start was able to obtain approval to use federal funds including American Rescue Plan (ARP), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) funds at an estimated 1.7M.

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