

Great Futures

An update from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities



Groves Literacy Program

The Groves Literacy Program is in full swing at five of our Clubs. Students have begun daily literacy-intensive programming and will take assessment tests soon.

Groves Academy provides us with the Groves Academy Literacy Framework, a system that aims to provide quality core instruction by focusing on areas like phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension.

The Groves Literacy Framework is currently helping students at Groves advance over two grade levels in reading per academic year, and is already helping our own Club members like Armando. Armando is eight years old and is a member of our Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club. Armando said that before attending the Club, he did not know how to read very well, and was not interested in reading for fun. Armando is one of over 120 students who are currently participating in the Groves Literacy Program at their Clubs. Armando was also part of a special summer literacy cohort at the West Side Club.

Last summer, Armando was able to improve his reading and literacy knowledge more than any other member in his group! Armando had increased his sight word comprehension by 15 words, and has added three words per minute to his recorded reading pace!

As he begins the new school year, Armando looks forward to having Boys & Girls Club staff members available to help him with his homework after school. "Someone is always there to help us with our assignments," Armando said. "It makes it a lot easier to be able to ask someone for help instead of having to figure it out on my own."

NEW WEBSITE & MARKETING

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities launched our NEW website in early August 2016. The new website incorporates many features which help to solve problems that had been caused by the old website. The new website is still the same URL (www.boysandgirls.org), and will now have the ability to be updated almost instantly in-house as opposed to using an outside design company.

Tim Schober, Molly Barrett, Alexandra Westman and members of the Associate Board have also started holding Marketing Committee meetings. These meetings will help to bring a fresh perspective to our marketing needs and efforts, as well as provide support for our in-house staff to complete marketing campaigns, projects, new website pages, etc.

Since the new website's launch, the site has had more than 6,000 active users; 70% of which are returning visitors! This is GREAT news, especially since we have seen our website traffic increase incrementally every month since its launch.



Mt. Airy Mindfulness Project

The number and degree of disparities our youth encounter affect multiple outcome measurements. Some of these effects on outcomes are caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's). Research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Minnesota has demonstrated repeatedly the powerful impact of ACE's on health, behavioral, and social problems.

ACE's—significant traumas that cause toxic levels of stress or trauma before age 18—are specifically linked to poor physical and mental health, chronic disease, lower educational achievement, lower economic success, and impaired social success in adulthood.

Some of the more common ACE's include: emotional/physical abuse or neglect, sexual abuse, violence in the home, household substance abuse, household mental illness, parental separation or divorce, or incarceration of household member.

What is the solution? We need to heal the traumas caused by ACE'S and prevent ACE's from occurring in the next generation. Building resilience to bounce back from life's difficult experiences is a response that can be learned and developed. Having caring and supportive relationships, developing the capacity to manage

strong feelings and impulses, and improving skills in communication and problem solving are factors that contribute to resiliency.

In partnership with the Ramsey County Children's Health Collaborative (RCCMHC) we are conducting a pilot program in Mindfulness at the Mt. Airy Club. Small groups of youth participate in sessions lasting 15 minutes to an hour based upon age and developmental level. They learn various techniques and utilize age appropriate skills to master being in the moment, stilling the mind and body and tuning in to their surroundings.

Accordingly, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities is seeking additional funding for program expansion to all major sites to provide this cost-effective, research-based approach to improved behavioral and physical health to at-risk youth.



Volunteer Program

Buffalo Wild Wings is taking the lead on employee health and wellness! We were invited to participate in their recent Company Health Fair to provide their employees with access to services and activities to promote wellness—one of which is giving back.

We set up a speed volunteering event where staff was invited to help stuff healthy lifestyles backpacks filled with essential items to support youth in our Run Clubs.

3M employee and alumni volunteers also use their time and talents to create positive change in their communities.

Thousands participate through 3Mgives Volunteer Programs, emphasizing education and community partnerships, with several programs created by employees over 35 years ago.

Local 3M volunteers helped the East Side Club with painting, with homework & setting up the Christmas trees for the holiday season.

Thank you to Walmart in Bloomington for donating 20 costumes to our Southside Village Club! Walmart also donated fruit, candy and pumpkins for our STARS!

We had so much fun celebrating Halloween!





Special Events

This year, For the Kids! was one of the most successful benefits in many years, bringing in over half a million dollars for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities!

The event was made successful through the contributions of many supporters through the silent auction, games, live auction, and especially during the donation appeal which raised over \$165,000 alone. We are looking forward to another successful For the Kids! at The Depot again on Saturday, November 11th 2017.

2017 Event Dates

SPRING THAW

MARCH 4, 2017

KIDS IN THE CITY

MAY 2, 2017

KNICKER OPEN

MARCH 4, 2017

GRAND SLAM DINNER

AUGUST 6, 2017

Associate Board

The Associate Board is continuing to grow and increase their involvement with the Boys & Girls Clubs through volunteer efforts as well as fundraising activities.

They recently hosted a Bocce Ball tournament this summer and co-hosted the Chili Cook Off with the Women's Association, both bringing in funds to support the Clubs.

The main focus again for the Associate Board this year will be the 5th Annual Spring Thaw Gala on March 4th at International Market Square.

They have set high goals of bringing in over 600 guests and raising \$80,000, but they are excited and determined to exceed these numbers!



Women's Association

The Women's Association is continuing to provide support through volunteering and fundraising efforts for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. They just co-hosted the First Annual Chili Cook Off with the Associate Board on Saturday, November 12th.

The event took place at Camp Voyageur and was a fundraiser for the Kids Can Give Program. The evening brought in over 75 guests who contributed a total of 110 gifts and \$475 in cash donations towards Kids Can Give.





TEEN PATHWAYS

Teen Pathways Highlight - Anaa Jibicho

Anaa Jibicho is a sophomore at Washington Tech in St. Paul, where he is a member of numerous organizations and clubs, including the National Honor Society (NHS). As a member of NHS, Anaa is expected to conduct a service project with a team of his peers.

Inspired by Teen Pathways and the corporate visits he has attended, Anaa convinced his group that they should host a Career Day at the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club. Anaa and his team organized six speakers from a variety of industries including 3M, the Minnesota Timberwolves, Buffalo Wild Wings, and HRA-IQ.

The group took full responsibility for marketing the event and taking care of all logistics, including securing Buffalo Wild Wings as the food sponsor. In the end, Anaa and his team had great success with the event, with over 150 teens participating--all of whom left with a greater sense of the opportunities available to them that they have the opportunity to work towards.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

using the Clover Model and Holistic Student Assessment from The Pear Institute



Through many years of research and practical experience Dr. Gil Noam and The PEAR Institute have developed the Clover Model.

The model is called Clover to convey growth, luck, nurturance and balance. It is a framework that helps us understand human developmental needs and establishes a common language with which to communicate with and about children and youth.

The Clover Model highlights four essential elements that people of all ages need in order to thrive, learn, and develop: Active Engagement; Assertiveness; Belonging; and Reflection.

2016 TEEN PATHWAYS STATS

MILESTONE ONE
110 COMPLETED

MILESTONE TWO
37 COMPLETED

MILESTONE THREE
10 COMPLETED

*Teen Membership/ Average Daily Attendance and frequency is declining from FY15.

2017 TEEN PATHWAYS GOALS

MILESTONE ONE
210 COMPLETED

MILESTONE TWO
105 COMPLETED

MILESTONE THREE
46 COMPLETED

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Fairview Hospitals
- Mainstream Boutique
- Minnesota Air National Guard
- St. Paul Saints
- Bell State Bank
- Northstar Aviation
- St. Paul Police Department
- Morrissey Hospitality Companies
- 3M
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Allianz
- US Bank
- Coca-Cola
- Tierney Brothers
- Minnesota Timberwolves
- Target
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Old Navy
- Cub Foods
- Cargill



HOLISTIC STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Holistic Student Assessment (HSA) is a tool developed by PEAR to help schools tailor services to better support the social and emotional well-being of students in school and afterschool settings. The HSA provides adolescents with an opportunity to self-report about specific behaviors, beliefs and relationships.

The 86-question instrument is based on PEAR's Clover Model, which describes child and adolescent development as a holistic interaction between four core developmental needs: Active Engagement (engaging the world physically), Assertiveness (expressing voice and choice), Belonging (social connection and relationships) and Reflection (thought and meaning-making).

Based on student responses, support staff at the program are provided an HSA Profile for each participating student, providing information about the student's socioemotional balance.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CONTINUED

The model is about balance between the four leaves.

While many individuals tend to specialize in a specific leaf, we each possess all the leaves to a greater or lesser degree and our tendencies may shift over our lifetimes. People specialized in one leaf often demonstrate particular strengths and struggles. Striving for personal balance between the four leaves of the Clover can help adults and students achieve positive mental health.

Clover is helpful in identifying the basic needs that kids have. By designing programs accordingly so each one of these gets nourished and children can work towards their own personal Clover balance, children are healthier mentally, emotionally, and academically.

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

The question for nonprofits that raise a large portion of their budget through foundations and corporations – like the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities – has always been ‘how can we navigate today’s ever-changing landscape while staying true to our mission?’

With trends going through cycles that sometimes last less than 2-3 years, foundations and corporations often change their focus area in ways that can leave nonprofits in the dark. Luckily, the Clubs are in an auspicious position. In the past, when focus areas change, we relied upon our wide array of programming and our relationship to the community to help us hold onto funding. For example, when Target changed their focus area from education to health, we were able to leverage our longstanding relationship, our board member, and our Healthy Lifestyles program to receive a large corporate gift.

While this strategy is effective, we are growing increasingly nimble when it comes to anticipating these changes. For example, the Groves Partnership and Teen Pathways have garnered interest from many new partners. These partnerships are being developed in order to help sustain programming for the Clubs. This would not have been possible if we did not anticipate giving in the Twin Cities shift towards teen employment and high-fidelity reading programs. What is more, this shift is being guided and molded by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. We are drawing attention to ourselves instead of playing catchup. This is key.

So how can we navigate the shifting giving landscape while staying true to our mission? We remain active and involved in the community in order to see where philanthropy is headed, then get there first.