Ke’la Scuefield Wins Twin Cities Youth of the Year

On Thursday, January 30, our seven Twin Cities "Youth of the Year" candidates had the opportunity to make formal presentations in front of our Board of Directors at the UnitedHealth Group headquarters in Minnetonka, MN. Ke’la Scuefield, our Patrick Henry Club candidate, captivated the room with her speech and scored the Twin Cities "Youth of the Year" nomination - and a standing ovation! Ke'la will go on to represent Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities at the Minnesota "Youth of the Year" awards on Monday, March 16, 2020.
We also strongly applaud Angelina, Josh, Jaqueline, Nevaeh, Ameer, and Jaelynn for representing their respective Clubs with such grace and determination. Every candidate did an amazing job on their presentation, and we are so proud! Thank you to Associate Board member Kendall Kolinski and BGCTC Board members Megan Scheller and Robert Taylor for serving as our judges this year - it certainly was no easy task!

Congratulations, Ke'la!

View More Photos

Over the holiday season, we reached out to our supporters to help us Give in Gratitude to strengthen our Clubs and acknowledge everything we are thankful for. With your help, we were able to raise over $100,000 for the Clubs, doubling the generous $50,000 match put forth by Al & Kathy Lenzmeier! These dollars go directly back into the Clubs and help us provide valuable opportunities for our youth.

We want to thank everyone who donated, reached out to your networks, and helped spread the word about our holiday campaign! We are so grateful for every single one of our supporters; our Clubs would not be the same without you!

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day at our Clubs
In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20, Karima Christmas-Kelly and Assistant Coach Katie Smith of the Minnesota Lynx visited our Jerry Gamble Club to lead a special art project! Club youth created individual art pieces to describe what Black History Month means to them. The artwork will be displayed at all Minnesota Timberwolves home games during the month of February!

At our Mt. Airy Club, we were very fortunate to host a half-day girls' workshop directed by Empower Leadership Academy and sponsored by the Minnesota Vikings. Our young women spent the day with the Empower Team and the Vikings cheerleaders while building new leadership skills, developing confidence, and learning ways to support each other!

Reading to Learn at Jerry Gamble

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities’ Literacy Program helps to ensure that all members are reading at their appropriate grade level and mastering the skills necessary to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Hands-on, multi-sensory literacy activity stations for all K-3 members focus on phonics, spelling, language structure, and vocabulary to reinforce skills needed in reading. Pull-out reading groups utilizing the Sunday Reading System provides intensive small group literacy instruction for K-6 members who have been assessed as needing focused reading support. The program utilizes the Fastbridge FAST reading assessment tool that measures reading scores as compared to national benchmark scores for grade level: High Risk (20th percentile and below), Some Risk (21st-30th percentile), Low Risk (31st-85th percentile), and College Pathway (above 85th percentile).

A number of third grade youth at our Jerry Gamble Club have shown remarkable development in their reading and comprehension skills! Meet three of our young Club members who have progressed out of the High Risk category in the last calendar year:

**Ziggy**

Zacchaeus (Ziggy), a persistent and determined reader, improved his cumulative score by 35 points between September and January. He has progressed from High Risk into the College Pathway category!

**Orlando**

Orlando loves reading group; in fact, when offered a choice between an extra reading activity or going to gym class, he chose to stay with his reading group! He increased his score by 40 points since September, and he has progressed into the

**Madella**

Madella, an energetic and active youth, learns especially well when the activity involves movement and when he gets to read out loud. His cumulative score increased by 35 points since September, and he has improved from High
Celebrating Black History Month with the Minnesota Timberwolves

In honor of Black History Month, the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx Book Mobile will be visiting four of our Clubs across the Twin Cities during the month of February. Thank you to the Timberwolves, Lynx, and FastBreak Foundation for connecting our youth with this exciting educational opportunity!

Visit the Book Mobile:

- East Side Club: Friday, Feb. 7
- Jerry Gamble Club: Monday, Feb. 10
- Mt. Airy Club: Thursday, Feb. 20
- Southside Village Club: Monday, Feb. 24

Thanks for Joining Us on the Ice!

We want to thank everyone who made Skate the Star another big success this year! With the help of our volunteers, partners, and the 12,000 skaters who joined us at the Mall of America’s ice rink throughout December and January, we raised nearly $75,000 to support our Clubs. We’re very grateful for our strong partnership with the Mall of America as well as for the support of Pepsi, TCF Bank, and Minnesota Ice during this year’s Skate the Star event. We also give a big Thank You to a dedicated supporter who put forth a generous match in December to help each donation go further for the Clubs!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Thaw

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Quincy Hall

Please join us for the 8th Annual Spring Thaw Gala at the NEW Quincy Hall in Northeast Minneapolis! You won’t want to miss out on this fun-filled night hosted by our Associate Board, BGCTC’s Young Professionals Network! The evening will include exciting live and silent auctions, delicious food and drinks, casino games, music, and more.

Proceeds from this annual fundraiser directly support BGCTC’s mission to enable ALL young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.
For questions regarding sponsorship, please contact Director of Special Events Amy Kuehn at akuehn@bgc-tc.org or 651-200-4107.

Get Tickets

Great Futures Fair

Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Jerry Gamble Club

The Great Futures Fair seeks to connect passion with purpose. Teens and young adults from across the Twin Cities will have the opportunity to meet with local corporations, businesses, colleges, tech schools, and trade unions as they begin to plan their post-secondary paths. The fair will educate and introduce teens to the multitude of employment and educational opportunities that exist across the metro area and allow prospective employers and educators to interact first-hand with the next generation of employees and students.

Stay tuned for updates on our vendors, schedule, speakers, and more!

For questions regarding teen outreach and attendance, please contact Andréa Carroll-Franck at ACarroll-Franck@bgc-tc.org or 651-200-4114. For questions regarding vendors or sponsorship information, please contact Tim Schober at tschober@bgc-tc.org or 651-200-4108.

Join Our Team

Are you looking for a career where you can make a big difference in the lives of kids and our communities? Our Clubs are in need of Education Specialists, Teen Specialists, program staff, facility staff, and more! Check out our current job listings to see how YOU can get involved!

Apply Now!

You Can Change a Child's Life

With your support, we can continue to provide life-changing academic, leadership, and healthy lifestyles programming to youth across the Twin Cities.

Donate Today!