



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE TWIN CITIES

## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



*Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins helps Mt. Airy youth shop for holiday gifts.*

### Minnesota Vikings Offer a Holiday Helping Hand

Our holiday season was filled with fun visits from the Minnesota Vikings! At our Mt. Airy Club, [Kirk Cousins stopped by](#) to help some of our kids find gifts for their families in our Kids Can Give holiday store. Alongside Viktor the Viking and a few of the team's cheerleaders, Kirk spent time playing ping-pong and foosball with our youth in the game room and even sat down to help with some reading and writing activities!



With substantial contributions from Xavier Rhodes, Laquon Treadwell helped organize

and lead a [holiday gift shopping event](#) for our Southside Village Club, where over 70 kids were able to find the perfect gifts for their friends and loved ones. [C.J. Ham](#) also "[adopted a family](#)" from Southside Village for the holidays, treating them to dinner, gifts, and a special tour of the Vikings' TCO Performance Center. We are very grateful to the Vikings for their ongoing support of our Clubs and families!



## A Season of Cheer with Kids Can Give!

During the holiday season, our Clubs collected toys, gifts, and other donations as part of our yearly Kids Can Give! holiday gift drive. In mid-December, each of our Clubs organized a holiday store, run entirely by volunteers, where our kids could shop for, wrap, and bring home the perfect gifts for their families and loved ones.

We were overjoyed at this year's outpouring of generosity! During our Kids Can Give drive, we received thousands of donated toys, gifts, accessories, and personal care items for our Clubs. Across the 10 holiday stores in our Clubs, about 150 volunteers organized the donations, helped kids shop,



and wrapped gifts to be sent home.

We are so grateful for the generosity of the companies and individuals who contributed time, gifts, and resources to bring holiday cheer to our Clubs! A big thanks goes out to:



- 3M
- Coca-Cola
- Pryes Brewing
- Planet Fitness
- Key Land Homes
- Toys for Tots
- Toy'n Around
- Northern Tool & Equipment
- Kutak Rock LLP
- Best Buy
- Office Depot
- City of Lakes Rotary
- Xcel Energy

- Ecolab
- Stuff the Sleigh
- MindWare
- U.S. Bank
- CenturyLink & Kirk Cousins
- Medtronic
- Kohl's
- Holmes Corp
- Nike
- Target
- BGCTC Board of Directors
- BGCTC Associate Board
- Women's Association

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## Club Families Displaced by Christmas Day Fire

The Francis Drake Hotel, a temporary housing facility in downtown Minneapolis, caught fire in the early morning hours of December 25. Several families with youth at our Southside Village Club were staying at the Drake Hotel at the time, although fortunately the families have reported they were not injured. Following the event, Southside Branch Director Mark Graves, as well as several Club staff and youth, spent their Christmas Day assisting the relief efforts downtown and handing out supplies to hotel residents displaced by the fire.



*Our thoughts are with the families and individuals who suffered this tragedy. For those who wish to contribute support to our Club youth affected by the fire, please contact Mark Graves at [mgraves@bgc-tc.org](mailto:mgraves@bgc-tc.org) or 612-290-2889.*

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## Join Us on the Ice at Skate the Star!

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities are the beneficiaries of Mall of America's [Skate the Star](#) again this winter! Last year, more than

26,000 people skated the oval ice rink at the Mall's North entrance, helping to raise over \$86,000 for the Clubs. Skate the Star provides a unique setting for all levels of skaters to create memories with one of winter's most popular pastimes!

This year's Skate the Star runs **through February 2**. Skaters have the option to bring their own skates or rent a pair for a \$5 donation to our Clubs! Volunteers are needed to help with skate rentals and merchandise sales.



For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Molly Hemes at [mhemes@bgc-tc.org](mailto:mhemes@bgc-tc.org) or 651-200-4102.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Thaw

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**  
**Quincy Hall**

Join us at the 8th Annual Spring Thaw on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Quincy Hall in Northeast Minneapolis! Spring Thaw is hosted by BGCTC's [Associate Board](#) and is a fun and affordable gala for young professionals in the Twin Cities. The event includes an auction, games, youth performances, a DJ, and more.



For questions regarding sponsorship, please contact Director of Special Events Amy Kuehn at [akuehn@bgc-tc.org](mailto: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.



This year, our Great Futures Fair will feature ["Top Chef" star Justin Sutherland](#) as a guest speaker. Stay tuned for updates on vendors, schedule, and more!

For questions regarding teen outreach and attendance, please contact Andréa Carroll-Franck at [ACarroll-Franck@bgc-tc.org](mailto: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](mailto:tschober@bgc-tc.org) or 651-200-4108.

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## 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!**

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## 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!**

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities | 651-726-2582 | [info@bgc-tc.org](mailto:info@bgc-tc.org) | [boysandgirls.org](http://boysandgirls.org)

STAY CONNECTED

