



**BGCTC NEWS**

## Welcoming the NEW John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club

This has been a year of growth for BGCTC. Our expansion strategy bridges academic and opportunity gaps by adding locations to meet identified community needs. We are proud to announce the most recent addition, John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club, is officially open and serving K-12 youth!

The namesake for this Club, John W. Hardeman III, has dedicated his entire career to the well-being and success of young people and families in the Twin Cities, serving as a leader within Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities for nearly 50 years — engaging, educating, and inspiring the next generations of change-makers daily. A testament to his commitment to young people, Hardeman has successfully established inclusive programs that prioritize excellence, forging strong bonds between families, local community organizations, and volunteers to create a unique system of support for young people. These programs ensure that every young person, regardless of their background or situation, can thrive within the Boys & Girls Club.

*“Here at John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club we strive to help build a sense of community, self-advocacy, integrity, and the education that our northside children deserve. Our goal is to have a plan for after graduation and provide our youth with the skills, preparation, and ideas they need to help change and improve their community.” — Johnl Jones, BGCTC Program Director.*



The John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club is located within the V3 Sports Center in North Minneapolis.

701 Plymouth Avenue N, Minneapolis, MN 55411





## Furthering Academic Gains During the Summer

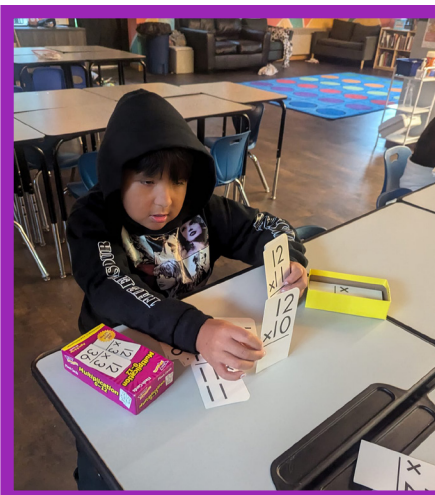
During the summer months, BGCTC offers programming M-F; 8:00am – 5:00pm. These longer days provide time for fun, outdoor activities and field trips, as well as a continued focus on BGCTC’s three “pillars of success”: **Academic Success**, **Life & Workforce**, and **Health & Wellness**. Academic progress monitoring such as the FastBridge Learning reading and math assessments, often reflect significant gains during the summer months as a direct result of the higher dosage of academic programming and support that is offered.



## Max’s Story

BGCTC staff at the Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club have witnessed tremendous growth in Max\*, an 8th grade Club member. When Max started attending the Club, he struggled to interact with staff and peers on an emotional level. His confidence was low and he rarely spoke up during activities. Max began to work with a reading interventionist at the Club and slowly they were able to build a rapport together. As a result, his confidence and reading abilities have improved so much that he now volunteers to read aloud in class.

*\*name changed for privacy*



**Numeracy & Literacy Skill Building in the Clubs!**

## Real-World Readiness

One of the main goals of BGCTC's Life & Workforce programming is to connect teens to opportunities that offer real-world skill building experience that supports workforce readiness.

**Girls in Real Leadership (GIRL) Power Program:** The GIRL Power Program is designed to empower young women by introducing them to the world of entrepreneurship and business. This innovative initiative aims to equip girls with essential business and leadership skills through hands-on activities, including business bootcamps, site visits, and field trips!



**East Side Career Launch Program:** Members who completed the Career Launch program during the 2023-2024 school year were privileged to interview for internships at the Club through Right Track. This initiative not only provided practical experience in navigating the job application and interview process but also offered a pathway into the workforce through meaningful internships. The opportunity to work at the East Side Club as

interns will allow these students to gain hands-on experience, develop professional skills, and build their resumes—all valuable assets as they prepare to enter the workforce.

## Soriya Chann: Recent Club Graduate & Current Club Staff Member

**How did the skills you gained at the Club assist you in navigating the challenges you have encountered?**

“Some skills I’ve gained from the Club really did help me. Under stressful/overwhelming situations I’ve learned to stop and breathe and think. During the beginning of the year when I did my speech for Youth of the Year, I was under a lot of stress. I wasn’t used to speaking in front of people at all. I was only used to portraying a charter on a stage to other actors but never the audience. When I was anxiously waiting to be the next person to speak I thought it through and breathed. As I walked to the podium the nervousness slowly went away and I was ready to say my words and be proud that I tried.”

**How has your Club experience impacted you and contributed to the person you are becoming?**

“The Club has impacted me in ways that I believe have changed me for the better. Before I came to what I call my second home, I felt like a lonesome child. I had nothing to look forward to and was always in my room. I usually kept to myself most of the time wondering if there was more to life than just being alone. That was, until someone I really did enjoy being around at the time convinced me to join the Club and then I did. Being with other kids not only made me happier and made me feel less alone... I gained skills that will help me in the future. All the laughs, tears, comfort and support I’ve received and given had molded me into the person I always knew I was. I just needed a little more help getting here to truly flourish as who I am now. I can’t wait until my next chapter helps me bloom even more!”





## Advocating & Tackling Mental Wellness

Health and wellness support is integrated across all programs offered at BGCTC and is an essential part of our holistic approach to addressing the needs of youth.

This spring, BGCTC teens participated in the “Changemaker Challenge,” a project that encouraged Club teens to develop innovative solutions or ideas that address specific social, environmental, or community issues. Within the framework of TLC (Think, Learn, Create), participants were asked to propose and develop an advocacy project that would have a meaningful impact on the social issue they identified.

In July, several BGCTC Changemakers had the exceptional opportunity to attend Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA's) Summit for America's Youth in Washington, D.C.

Four young men from the Eastside Boys & Girls Club, Little Earth, and Jerry Gamble collaborated on a joint TLC project focused on advocating for mental health, particularly among young boys and men.

BGCTC Club youth also participated in BGCA's Changemaker Advocacy Fair, where they had the privilege of sharing their projects with other BGCA Club members from across the country, as well as with leaders of the BGCA movement.

Following the fair, our youth took their talents to Capitol Hill, where they shared their personal stories and advocated for increased mental health resources for all.



BGCTC is grateful to have been featured as a Community Partner at the Minnesota Vikings Training Camp on Friday, August 2. Club youth from Jerry Gamble and East Side Clubs came to spread the word about BGCTC and the importance of mental wellness and healthy movement. At our booth, youth ran an interactive football mini-game and facilitated a water-color art activity to promote mental wellness. Club Youth were also able to experience training camp and participate in activities.



## STEM KITS, SKATEBOARDS, & MORE!

We are grateful for our partnership with **Bell Museum** over the past few years. This summer, Bell Museum donated 400 STEM and Nature Kits. Each kit comes with written and video instructions in multiple languages to eliminate barriers. Free family passes to the museum are also included in each kit.

On June 13, **Stoneridge Software** hosted an employee skateboard-build event. The group came together to build 135 skateboards, each personally designed with stickers! They also provided helmets and knee pads for safe riding. Youth were excited to receive new skateboards for the summer!

For the second year in a row, BGCTC has been the recipient of UHG's Early Careers Intern community impact project. This year, nearly 650 UHG interns came together to build 65 teen bikes, 300 scooters, and 200 summer activity kits. We are grateful for our partnership with **UHG Children's Foundation**.

**Kohl's Cares** provided BGCTC a \$2,000 grant for Club youth to use at a local Kohl's store. On August 8, 20 Club youth went to the Maplewood Mall Kohl's location for a back-to-school shopping day. Each received \$100 dollars and got to explore the store to pick out what they wanted including new clothes, shoes, personal hygiene, and more. The staff were super helpful and friendly! Participating Clubs included Mt. Airy, East Side, and West Side.



## Celebrating Community!

The **Southside Village Boys & Girls Club** has been spreading joy and summer fun by hosting “Southside Village Community Fridays.” These events were open to **ALL** and include food, games, activities, prizes, and more!

We’d also like to give a huge thank you to all our community partners for making these events successful!



Clubs celebrated **National Night Out** on August 6, bringing community together with Club-hosted gatherings. The events were also part of Dale Larson Family Day of Kindness and Sharing.

**Elk River Boys & Girls Club** has been bringing awareness to programming opportunities and sharing information with families and community members at local community events such as the Elk River Farmers Market (June 27) and Elk River Fest (July 27).

**Join us for an End of Summer Bash at the Elk River Boys & Girls Club for the community on August 20 from 3-5PM!**



## Get Involved with the Clubs!

### Volunteer

[boysandgirls.org/get-involved/volunteers](https://boysandgirls.org/get-involved/volunteers)

**1** Committed volunteers help magnify the impact of the Clubs.

### Become a Corporate Partner

[boysandgirls.org/corporate-partnerships](https://boysandgirls.org/corporate-partnerships)

**2** Corporate partners help advance the BGCTC mission and provide ongoing support.

### Make a Recurring Gift

[boysandgirls.org/give](https://boysandgirls.org/give)

**3** A recurring monthly donation, no matter the amount, is a powerful investment in the next generation.

### Join the Team

[boysandgirls.org/get-involved/careers](https://boysandgirls.org/get-involved/careers)

**4** Make a difference by helping youth reach their full potential.

## SAVE THE DATE



**August 25, 2024**  
The Capital Grille  
[Learn More](#)



**December 2024**  
*More Details Coming soon*



**April 25, 2025**  
The Depot Minneapolis  
[Learn More](#)