



Centennial Celebration

100 Years of Transforming Lives

This year, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities is proud to celebrate an extraordinary milestone; our 100th anniversary! For a century, our Clubs have been places where young people discover their potential, build meaningful relationships, and gain the skills they need to shape their futures.

The Boys & Girls Club movement began in 1860, when a group of pioneering women in Hartford, Connecticut created the first Club to offer boys a positive alternative to life on the streets. Minnesota joined the movement in 1926 when the Union Gospel Mission opened the St. Paul Boys Club in the Bethel Hotel. Minneapolis followed in 1960 with the opening of its first Boys Club, and in 1999, the Minneapolis and St. Paul organizations merged to form the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities we know today.

We're excited to honor this remarkable legacy at the **For the Kids! Gala on April 24, 2026**. Join us as we celebrate 100 years of impact and witness the powerful reminder of what's possible when a community shows up for its young people.

Your presence helps make it all possible: ensuring that more youth have access to mentorship, resources, and a place where they can belong and thrive. Come be inspired and be part of something that matters!



MARCH 2026 ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Purchase tickets, tables, and sponsorships here!

Scan the QR code to visit our Event page!



There are still sponsorships available for the event. One unique opportunity is the Changemaker Sponsorship that supports our leadership programming. **Reach out to Tim Schober at tschober@bgc-tc.org with any questions.**

There is still time to provide auction items! Flight miles to pair with live auction items, hotel stays, outdoor equipment, and any "experiences" are at the top of our auction wish list. **Please connect with Allie at awerm@bgc-tc.org if you have any items you'd like to donate.**



Our North Star

All Members on track for a successful future beyond high school graduation

BGCTC's 2026 Youth of the Year: Evonnie Wilson

We are excited to announce BGCTC's 2026 Youth of the Year: Evonnie Wilson! Evonnie was selected from a slate of six candidates participating in the competition. Community supporters, alumni, board members, staff, and family members gathered to celebrate and recognize the Youth of the Year, a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of academic excellence, health & wellness, and service leadership.

A panel of four judges, comprised of Boys & Girls Club alumni and community members, reviewed the candidates' applications, conducted individual interviews, and evaluated speeches presented at the celebration.

Evonnie, currently a high school senior, has been an active member of the Mt. Airy Club for the past three years. In her Youth of the Year essay, she reflected on the Club's influence in her life: *"The Boys and Girls Club has played a defining role in my growth, giving me a space to build confidence, find my voice, and understand my responsibility to others. Through the Club, I learned that effective leadership means listening first, leading with empathy, and ensuring that others feel seen, valued, and heard."*

A dedicated advocate for the health and well-being of her community, Evonnie plans to pursue a career in the medical field.



Career Exploration Spotlight: Medical & Media Pathways

Teens are diving into exciting new career experiences this spring through our partnerships with Gillette Children's Hospital and Wild University.

Through our new Medical Careers Event Series with Gillette Children's Hospital, youth visited Gillette's St. Paul campus to explore behind-the-scenes roles in healthcare. They learned directly from professionals in Environment of Care and Inpatient Services, participated in hands-on demonstrations, including a look inside how sleep studies work and taste-testing with a dietician, and toured an inpatient unit. These sessions are opening doors to medical careers many teens have never considered.

At Wild University, the focus of the most recent session was sports broadcasting. Teens spent time with Minnesota Wild play-by-play announcer Joe O'Donnell, who walked them through the preparation, research, and quick decision-making required to deliver an accurate and engaging broadcast. From calling games in small markets to reaching the NHL, Joe's career journey gave teens an inspiring look at the persistence and passion behind success in media.

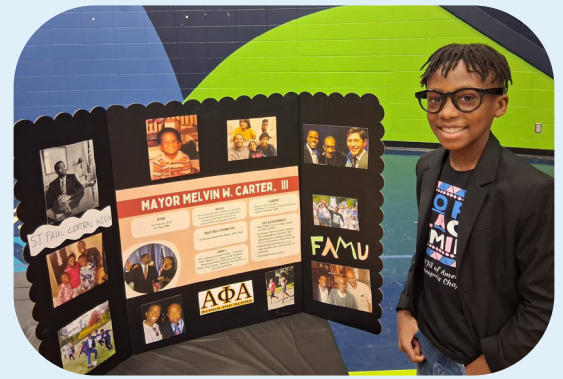
The experience culminated with an unforgettable opportunity: watching the Wild take on the Philadelphia Flyers from the Press Box. Standing alongside Joe as he called the game, teens witnessed firsthand how teamwork, preparation, and communication come together at the highest level of professional sports.



Celebrating Black History Month

In February, Jerry Gamble celebrated Black History Month with a powerful event celebrating the legacy, leadership of influential Black community leaders.

In partnership with the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, the Club transformed the gym into a living museum where youth proudly presented their projects. Historical and cultural icons from Jackie Robinson to Tupac Shakur were included, in addition to local leaders shaping our community today. Each display board showcased dedicated research and creativity from Club youth.



Families, mentors, and community members came out to support the event. A warm thank you goes out to everyone who joined us, and a special shout-out to Ms. Lucy and Felicia for always providing delicious food that helps complete our community celebrations.

Leadership through Literacy



At the beginning of the school year, BGCTC launched a new literacy curriculum based on the Science of Reading: Lexia Core5 (K-5) and Lexia PowerUp (6-8).

Lexia is designed to build foundational literacy skills at the pace of the individual, removing stigma about where a member should be academically, and instead celebrating the gains they make where they are at.

The results of creating a culture of achievement are reflected at the Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club with our new “Lexia Co-staff”, Henry. During the school day, Henry’s academic frustration resulted in frequent visits to the principal’s office and being dubbed a “class clown”.

The learning environment at the Club fit Henry’s needs and he became the first youth at the club to complete the entire Lexia journey, even advocating for himself to use his “Club account” during school hours.

Henry became a role model for other Club members and began helping them with Lexia earning the title of “Lexia Co-staff.” He even began to model the same leadership at school, proving that his potential has no limits.

Youth Voice and Empowerment

Two Richfield Middle School Club members had the opportunity to present at a recent Richfield Public Schools board meeting along with Club Program Director Christian Hampton to report on why after school programming at the Boys & Girls Club is important for community youth.

Mariam and Raqi shared with the board members about the many skills youth can build in the Club and the opportunities for academic support, both highlighting the sense of belonging that youth experience at the Club. They explained that many youth don’t talk during the school day and the Club is a place where youth have a voice and can share about their day.

“This is not just a Club, it’s a community”
- Mariam, Grade 6

“With everything going around in our community right now, the Boys & Girls Club makes kids feel safe, loved, and cared about” – Raqi, Grade 6



Growing Strong

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

Donate TODAY at boysandgirls.org/growing-strong

At Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (BGCTC), we prioritize holistic health through our Health & Wellness strategy, which supports fitness, nutrition, and mental well-being. This includes trauma-informed training for staff, programs that teach positive conflict resolution, and safe spaces where youth can express themselves and build resilience. We invite you to join us in strengthening the health and wellness of youth - now and in the future - by contributing to **GROWING STRONG** running **now through March 31, 2026**.

Scan the QR code or visit boysandgirls.org/growing-strong to learn more!



Basketball Builds Champions On and Off the Court

This year, our Clubs saw meaningful growth through basketball, strengthening confidence, teamwork, and character among youth.

Mt. Airy, Al Lenzmeier West Side, and Jerry Gamble Clubs wrapped up a successful 12U Club-wide League season with an exciting Championship game. With dedicated players and support from parents, caregivers, and staff, these teams practiced sportsmanship, resilience, and how to win and lose with dignity.

At the Little Earth Club, three alumni (Larry, Tavarius, and Justin) returned to lead 6th–8th grade programming and coach in the same basketball program they once participated in. Their mentorship and dedication are now inspiring the next generation of athletes.

Little Earth youth also traveled to Las Vegas last week for the Tribe Athletics Began Madness Tournament, giving them the chance to compete on a national stage and represent their community.



Get Involved with the Clubs!

Become a Corporate Partner



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

boysandgirls.org/corporate-partnerships

Start a Monthly Gift



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

boysandgirls.org/give

Volunteer



Committed volunteers help magnify the impact of the Clubs.

boysandgirls.org/get-involved/volunteers

Investors

To make an investment in the future of our youth, please contact:

Terryl Brumm, President & CEO

✉ tbrumm@bgc-tc.org ☎ (612) 715-2120

UPCOMING EVENTS



For the Kids!

April 24, 2026 | 5pm - 10pm
The Depot, Minneapolis



Great Futures Fair

July 21, 2026 | 11:30am - 3:00pm
Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES

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