



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES

JUNE 2026 ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Ujima United Safety, Solidarity, Leadership

Each year, Club teens participate in BGCTC’s Changemaker Challenge, a challenge put forth for Club teens to identify a social issue that sparks their passion, educate themselves on their chosen issue, and then develop a project that can actively drive change in their communities.

Through the Changemaker Challenge, five youth-led projects come together as one integrated effort to strengthen communities through creativity, mentorship, wellness, and environmental responsibility. While each initiative reflects a unique passion, ranging from artistic expression to food access and sustainability, they are united by a shared commitment to empowering youth and creating tangible, lasting impact.

A defining feature of this blended project is its investment in youth mental health and well-being. All participating teens will complete specialized mental health certification training led by a licensed psychologist, preparing them to serve as trusted peer mentors. Through this training, youth gain the skills to recognize early signs of mental health challenges, provide support, and foster safe spaces within their Clubs.

“Facilitating Psychological First Aid (teen version) with this group of young people reaffirmed something I hold close: investing in youth leaders is one of the most strategic forms of community care we can offer. These teens are not simply future leaders; they are present leaders, carrying tools that strengthen their families, schools, and neighborhoods today. The work the Boys & Girls Clubs is doing here is upstream prevention at its best, and I am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside it.”

-Dr. Rashida Fisher, Ujima Healing and Consulting

In July, these leaders will attend Summit for America’s Youth (SAY) in Washington D.C. This is one of the biggest youth advocacy events of the year, with teens from across the nation gathering to hear from lawmakers, participate in trainings, and speak with members of Congress about issues we care about.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING BEGINS!

Here’s what you need to know:

Summer Program Dates: 6/15/2026 - 8/14/2026

*Clubs closed on 6/19, 7/2, 7/3

Summer Program Hours: Mon - Fri, 7:00AM – 5:00PM
(Hours may vary per Club site)

Programs: Daily programming will include continued focus on academic success, health & wellness, and life & workforce programs, as well as additional opportunities for field trips and summer camp at Voyageur!

Snacks/Meals: Breakfast (9:00AM - 10:00AM), lunch (1:00PM - 2:00PM), and snacks are provided for all BGCTC youth.*

How to Sign Up? To become a club Member, complete the registration form [here](#) on BGCTC’s website.

Cost: FREE!



*BGCTC will be participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all youth ages 5-18 without charge. Youth do not need to be registered for Boys & Girls Club programs to receive meals. Meals will be provided on program days at a first come, first serve basis at the following sites: Mt Airy Boys & Girls Club, East Side Boys & Girls Club, Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club, Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club, Southside Village Boys & Girls Club, and John W. Hardeman III Boys & Girls Club. (Hours may vary per Club site; please check each site for details)

boysandgirls.org/about/who-we-are/club-locations



Our North Star

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

Career Exploration Takes Center Stage

At Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club, John Karsten of Notes for Notes is helping teens explore music, media, and production through hands-on learning in a professional recording studio.

That exploration recently expanded beyond the Club walls with a field trip to First Avenue, where ALWS teens went behind the scenes as singer-songwriter Caroline Jones and her crew prepared for a show. The visit offered a first-hand look at the many careers that power live music.

Club member Alex, an aspiring photographer, was especially excited to attend. “I saw the opportunity and took it,” he said.

Teens were surprised by how much preparation happens before a performance, and by the reminder that success in music depends not only on talent, but also on teamwork and compatibility.

(Photos by Club member Alex!)



Alex, 10th Grade | Al Lenzmeier West Side Boys & Girls Club
Future Career: Photography

Club Member Spotlight

How has the Club helped you explore your future career?

For Alex, the Club has opened the door to hands-on experiences that bring his passion for photography to life.

“The Club let me borrow a nice digital camera so that I could experience what it is like to take photos on an actual camera, not just my phone,” he shared. Having access to professional equipment has helped Alex build his skills and confidence behind the lens.

He’s also explored a variety of career paths through Wild University, where guest speakers and real-world learning opportunities introduce Club members to new possibilities. “I’ve participated in Wild University. It has been interesting to learn about different career paths,” Alex said. “The people that we talk to have also been really interesting.”

Through these experiences, Alex is gaining the tools and inspiration to pursue his creative future.

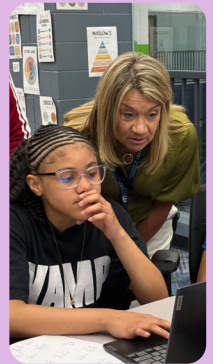
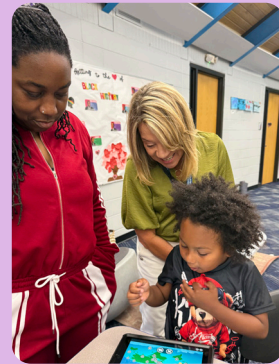


MDE Approved! Literacy in Action at Jerry Gamble Club

Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club members recently welcomed a special guest, Julie Novak, Director of Literacy at the Minnesota Department of Education. As the leader of the state's Literacy Unit and Regional Literacy Network, Julie plays a key role in shaping literacy efforts across Minnesota.

Earlier this school year, BGCTC introduced Lexia, a top-rated, research-based literacy program for grades K–8 that aligns with the updated Minnesota READ Act. During her visit, Club members were excited to share how the program is making a difference.

The results speak for themselves. From stronger reading assessment scores to improved classroom behavior and even making the honor roll, youth are building skills and confidence every day. It's clear that with the right tools and support, Club members are thriving and their progress is just getting started!



Celebrating our Seniors: From Decision Day to Graduation

This spring, we're celebrating our seniors as they step into what's next, from college and careers to the military and beyond. From building skills at the Club to acceptance letters and college tees, they did this.

As part of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's #AmericaGraduates with Club Kids campaign, on May 1, our seniors joined young people across the country in claiming their futures. Each path reflects years of hard work, resilience, and the power of a community that believes in them.

Many of our Club youth have overcome real challenges to get here, and they showed up to Decision Day with plans, purpose, and pride.

"Our seniors are stepping into their futures with purpose, courage, and possibility," shared Terry Brumm, President & CEO. That celebration continued on Graduation Day, where Club staff, Club members, and their families gathered to honor not just the milestone, but the journey behind it. On May 28, each senior was recognized with a certificate and officially welcomed into BGCTC's Alumni Association with their Alumni pins - marking the beginning of their next chapter, not the end of their connection to the Club.

At BGCTC, support doesn't stop at graduation. Our alumni remain part of a lifelong community; one that continues to offer relationships, guidance, and opportunities as they move forward. Whether they're heading to campus, starting a career, or forging a new path, one thing is clear: our seniors are ready!





**ALUMNI
HALL OF FAME**



BGCTC’s Alumni Association is a special part of our mission because support does not end at graduation. While we do not always get to see the full impact of the Club in real time, this year’s Alumni Hall of Fame inaugural inductees offer a powerful reminder of what is possible.

We are honored to celebrate two extraordinary alumni whose journeys began in our Clubs and whose leadership has helped shape the Twin Cities. As young people, they found belonging, encouragement, and opportunity at BGCTC. As adults, they carried those values into the world; strengthening communities, opening doors, and giving back in lasting ways.

Gary Kirt, a proud alumnus of the Claire Fawcett Boys Club in South Minneapolis, built a remarkable career from an early start in real estate and mortgage banking. After buying his first home while still in high school, he went on to purchase the 100-year-old David C. Bell Investment Company in 1980 and grow it into the largest privately owned mortgage company in the Midwest.

His impact reaches far beyond business. Gary was BGCTC’s first Minneapolis Youth of the Year in 1970 and served on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities Board of Directors from 1979 to 2006. He continues to serve on the Board of Trustees, and the partnerships he helped build still strengthen our work today.



Gary Kirt



Sharon Sayles Belton

Sharon Sayles Belton, a proud alumna of the Ober Club in Saint Paul, made history as the first African American and the first woman to serve as Mayor of Minneapolis. From 1994 to 2001, she led the city with a strong focus on public safety, neighborhood livability, and public-private partnership.

Her leadership has extended far beyond City Hall. Sharon has long championed youth development, neighborhood revitalization, women and families, and racial equity. She also co-founded the Harriet Tubman Shelter for Battered Women and is a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Alumni Hall of Fame.

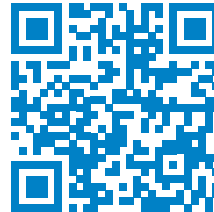
Every young person deserves a future they envision and a path to achieve it! At Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, we work with teens full of limitless potential navigating a world of opportunity. They are planning a life after high school - whether that means a four-year degree, community college, the trades, or jumping directly into the workforce.

This is why BGCTC is committed to ensuring every teen is **Future Ready**.

Through our Life & Workforce strategy, young people explore their interests, build critical skills, and connect to high demand career opportunities. This includes job-readiness workshops and tools, career days, scholarships, leadership development, and much more. We believe these experiences help teens build their confidence, skills, and determination to succeed not just in school but also in work and life.

In 2024, BGCTC introduced **Pathway2Careers**, an innovative career exploration system designed to help teens discover their interests and use real time information to guide their future plans. The tool uses career assessments, realtime labor market data, and hands-on learning experiences to discover potential career pathways. Thanks to innovations like Pathway2Careers, more teens can see a dynamic future for themselves and take the steps to achieve it.

Now through **July 15**, you can help make workforce readiness opportunities possible by supporting **Future Ready**. Your investment helps ensure more young people are prepared, confident, and connected to the opportunities that will shape their future. Visit boysandgirls.org/future-ready to learn more and donate today.



Get Involved with the Clubs!



Corporate Partnerships

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

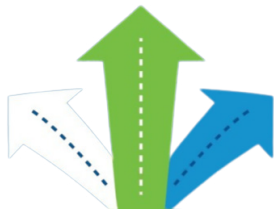
Investors

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 | SAVE THE DATE!



Great Futures Fair

July 21, 2026 | 11:30AM - 3:00PM

Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club



Morrissey Hospitality Golf Classic

Bunker Hills Golf Club | July 24, 2026

[Purchase Golf Packages & Sponsorships](#)

