

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



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The Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area invites you to...

Join us for
An evening of Love
for our Kids



Thursday, February 13, 2014

Your Invitation Enclosed.
Please RSVP By February 6th.
We hope to see you there!

BEMIDJI BOYS &
GIRLS CLUB

3rd Annual
BOWL-A-THON

brought to you by
FUN for the WHOLE FAMILY! (ages 5 and up)
Sun., Jan. 19th at Bemidji Bowl

2 Hours of Glow 'N' Bowl!
All-You-Can-Eat Pizza & Pop!
Chances to Win Prizes!
Special Drawings!
ONLY \$25 per person!

Register before Jan. 15th, 2014 to qualify for the Grand Prize Drawing. Register online at www.KKBj.com; in person at Bemidji Bowl, 3455 Laurel Drive NW, Bemidji, or call (218) 751-2153. Need not be present to win. Co-sponsored by the following businesses:



GREAT FUTURES START HERE!

FORMULA FOR

IMPACT

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED US MOST

OUTCOME-DRIVEN CLUB EXPERIENCE

FIVE KEY ELEMENTS FOR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- HIGH-YIELD ACTIVITIES
- TARGETED PROGRAMS
- REGULAR ATTENDANCE

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Graduate from high school ready for college, trade school, military or employment

GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

Be an engaged citizen involved in the community, register to vote and model strong character

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Adopt a healthy diet, practice healthy lifestyle choices and make a lifelong commitment to fitness



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

"To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens."

Winter 2014

1600 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Mailing Address: PO Box 191
Bemidji, MN 56619

218.444.4171
www.bgcbemidji.com

Find us on Facebook

Club proves good fit for Patrias family

Ed and Marla Patrias wanted their son, Gus, to have a fun place to go after school, a place where he could engage with other kids and get his homework done. So this fall, when his friends started gravitating to the Boys and Girls Club, Ed and Marla decided to let Gus give it a try, too. His experience has turned out to be good for the whole family.

"Gus loves it there," said Marla. "His new favorite game is foosball and he loves the computer lab. Homework, he doesn't like that so much." Yet, he's making progress.

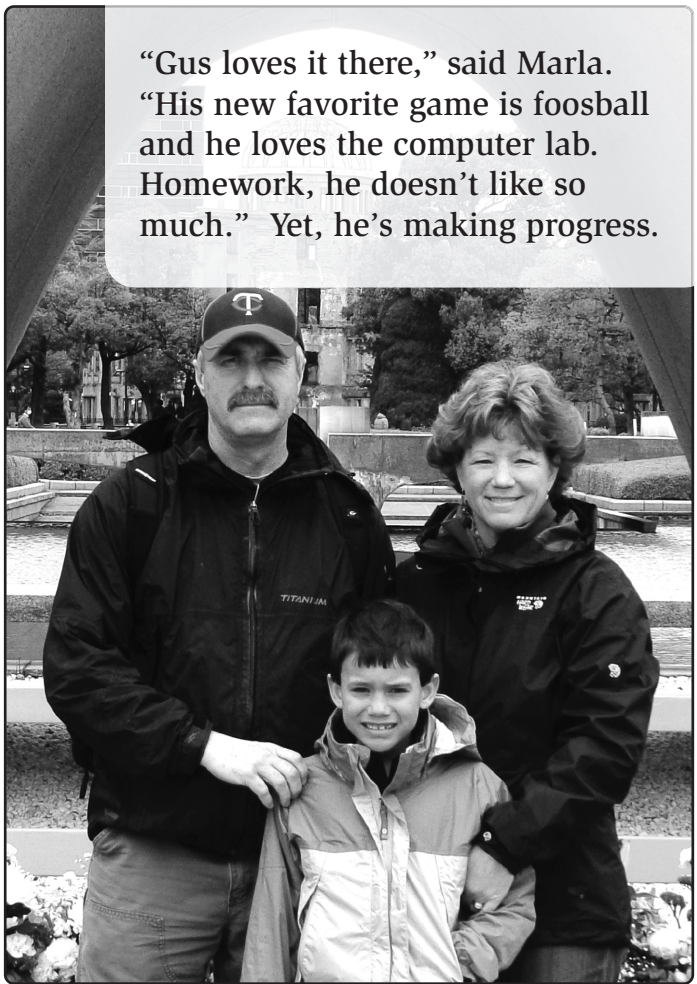
Gus, a third-grader at Schoolcraft, rides the bus to J.W. Smith Elementary after school and then walks to the Club with his friends. He enjoys all the activities and the opportunity for a little self direction, said Marla. That includes deciding when to take advantage of the optional tutoring. His parents and Club staff are encouraging him to spend a little more time with the tutor.

"On Mondays and Thursdays he does homework at the Club, mostly because we were spending one to two hours a night and it was getting stressful," said Marla, who doesn't relish being a taskmaster. "The tutor is great with him." Plus it helps, said Marla, that his friends do homework there, too.

Also, Club members get points when they accomplish academic goals. "Gus finally got enough points to buy an award," said Marla. "He was so excited about that."

An unexpected bonus is that Gus gets to interact with kids of all ages, although most of the time, kids divide into activities by age. Still, older children helped Gus find his way at the Club. At times though, Gus has witnessed older kids engage in bullying behaviors or use inappropriate language.

"Those are behaviors that you don't really want, but when you're exposed to it in a little more controlled



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environment like the Club, there's some beneficial aspects," said Marla, who appreciates how Josh Kujava, unit director, has helped Gus navigate those situations. "We've had some really good discussions with Gus as a result."

Gus is thriving at the Club. One sure sign: "He gets mad if we come to pick him up too early," said Marla. "For us, the Club has been a really good place."

Community Connections

Supporting a campaign for our kids – and our future



Starting in February, the Club will undertake our annual campaign, It Just Takes One, an effort to share our mission and visit area individual donors asking for their investment in Bemidji youth. Given the Club's priority outcomes of good character and leadership, academic success, and healthy lifestyles for ages 6-18, every caring citizen should add his or her name to the honor role of supporters.

Every child and teen in the Bemidji area has the opportunity to be a Club member for the minimal cost of \$15 per year. The Club relies on generous donors to defray the actual cost of \$650 per member. One tangible step is to support the Clubs' annual fundraising campaign. It's an investment in our community's most precious resource – our children.



"For the last three years, we have met and exceeded our annual giving goals thanks to the generosity of our community," said Andrea Ohnstad, Club executive director. "This year we plan to raise \$64,000 from individual contributions by July 31, 2014."



Karen Erickson Simpson (St. Petersburg, FL) speaks from the heart, "All children need a safe, warm and loving place where they are able to be themselves. There is such a place in Bemidji and it is called the Boys and Girls Club where kids can be free, funny, creative and expressive. The administration and board are such

outstanding stewards of the funds placed in their care that I know my dollars are actually making a difference. I challenge every community leader, every pastor, every business person, every citizen to make the commitment to help fund the Boys and Girls Club of the Bemidji Area."



Sue Engel, First National Bank Bemidji marketing director, former BGCBA board president and Club volunteer for 10+ years, says, "Years ago, we hosted a lunch at the Club for a prospective supporter. At that lunch, the prominent businessman said, 'If you make a difference for just one child, it will be money well spent.' The joy of the Club is that there are many success stories of impact and difference making results. Many of the younger members continue to attend the Club through high school and some of them are

volunteering to work with the younger members during high school and after graduation. This demonstrates how the Club can continue to impact kids and help them give back to the Club and their community. Each member, positively impacted, will give back and make our community better."



Mike Mastin, Bemidji chief of police and BGCBA board member, said, "I invest in the Club because 3-8 p.m. is the most concerning time of day for young

people – when crime involving youth doubles – as they leave school and return to empty households or neighborhood streets, idle and unsupervised. The Club is a safe place for Kids during prime time-crime hours."

CLUB FACILITY RENTALS!

Looking for a fun and affordable place to host your next trade show, birthday party celebration, office gathering or group outing?

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bemidji Area has facilities available to rent including, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, commercial kitchen, games room, and more. Rental rates available at www.bgcbemidji.com.

For more information or to schedule your facility rental today, please contact resource development director, Becky Bergquist at 218-444-4171 or bbergquist@paulbunyan.net.

CLUB WISH LIST

Check out the 2014 Club wish list at www.bgcbemidji.com

Attention Thrivent Members

Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is now eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Consider directing your choice dollars to the Club for the Kids!

Youth of the Year

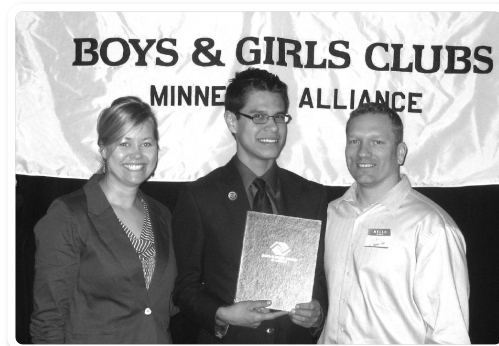
Premier recognition program for Club members

Youth of the Year is Boys and Girls Club of America's premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability. Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is gearing up to select an outstanding Club member as Youth of the Year. Members ages 14 to 18 were selected as Youth of the Month winners throughout 2013. Of those monthly winners, one 2013 Youth of the Year will be selected, who will then participate in a state competition at the capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota. State winners each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and participate in regional competitions. Five regional winners each receive a \$10,000 scholarship and compete on the national level. The National Youth of the Year receives up

to an additional \$50,000 scholarship and is installed by the President of the United States.

"We teach kids at our Club that, with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible," said Andrea Ohnstad, executive director of Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area. "Many of the youth we serve face pretty tough challenges on a day to day basis. When I see these kids excelling in home, at school and in their communities, I feel such a sense of pride knowing we are playing a role in their success."

Last year selected as 2012 Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area Youth of the Year among local outstanding youth, Darin Hill, 18 – years old (pictured above in the middle of Andrea Ohnstad, Club executive director and Josh Kujava, Club unit director). He is a true example of an extraordinary young man



Andrea Ohnstad, Darin Hill, and Josh Kujava.

recognized for his sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Sponsored in part by Nerium Brand Partners (Sheri Jahner, Sandy Hennum, Brenda Solheim, Leslie Frosaker, Kierstine Hoven, Dawn Myhra, Ann Hayes, May Nadlund).



The following monetary gifts were given to the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area between July 1, 2013 and December 17, 2013 by businesses, organizations and foundations.

\$49,999 - \$25,000
George W. Neilson Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999
Beltrami County

\$5,000 - \$9,999
United Way of Bemidji

\$2,500 - \$4,999
Bob Lowth Ford
Potlatch

\$1,000 - \$2,499
Bemidji Cooperative Association
Bernick's Beverages
Dondelinger Chevrolet & Employees
Hills Heating of Bemidji
Lucachick Architecture
Norbord Minnesota
Otter Tail Power Company
Willow Wood Market



\$500 - \$999
Bobcat of Bemidji
Community Holiday Meal Fund
Kohl's Cares-St. Cloud
K & M of Bemidji (Dairy Queen)
Land O' Lakes Foundation
Meyers Sign Source
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Peterson Sheet Metal

\$499 - \$250
Beltrami Electric Cooperative
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce
Bemidji Lions Club
Bemidji Rotary
First National Bank Bemidji
Knife River Materials
Lueken's Village Foods
McDonalds
North Central Door Company
Perkins
Pinnacle Publishing
Riverwood Bank
Sanford Bemidji
Security Bank USA
Young Professional Network Bemidji



\$249 - \$150
Noel's Bottle Shop
Sparky's Construction

Marketing Sponsors:
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Name Omitted? We apologize for any names that were omitted. Please contact our office and we will gladly make a correction in our next edition.

Special thanks to BareBonz Design, Amity Graphics and Cindy Serratore for their contributions to this newsletter.

