

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

PO Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619

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Bemidji, MN



INSIDE: Learn how Jordan finds a welcome place at the Club.

Spotlight on art

Club members showcase creative talents

Drum roll please...Your generous Club support made it possible for 60 Club members to enter the National Fine Arts competition this year. Club members submitted 73 entries in nine different categories. Winners were chosen in four age levels with the top 20 entries advancing to the regional competition. Thanks to donors like you, our art room is open every day after school so Club members can foster their creative talents and build cultural awareness. The next time you visit the Club, be sure to check out the art display in the Club's Community Room.

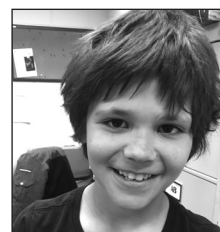
Newsletter design: BareBonz DESIGN

Thank you for giving Club kids time and space to be creative.

Congratulations to all our artists including:



Claire, age 8,
pastel and
mixed media



Kayden, age 10,
print making



Sage, age 8,
monochromatic



Kylie, age 10,
acrylic

Save the date

* Boys & Girls Club Week: March 27-31

* Annual Campaign: March-June

* Pint Night: July 12

* Golf Tournament: August 21

Every kid deserves a great future.

bgcbemidji.org



BE GREAT



Spring 2017 newsletter

Jordan builds bonds with Club peers



Thank you for helping Club members like Jordan feel welcome and supported in our community.

A newcomer to the community, Jordan enjoys the friendly – and now familiar -- faces she finds every day at the Club.

Jordan, 16, moved from the Twin Cities to Bemidji in the summer of 2015 with her mom and three siblings. She joined the Boys & Girls Club shortly after she arrived, which she says helped make the move easier.

"It was really fun, and I met friends my own age. A lot of them ended up going to Bemidji High School so we're still friends," says Jordan, who also appreciates how the Club provides opportunities to try new things.

Last summer, she attended Laketrails Base Camp, supported by a Club scholarship, where she loved the canoeing, stargazing and camaraderie with peers.

Club staff also helped her land a Club job funded through Rural Minnesota CEP, which pays wages to help youth build job skills. When CEP funding temporarily ran out, Jordan kept coming to the Club as

a volunteer. Her mom volunteers at the Club, too.

On a Thursday afternoon, Jordan hunkered down with homework while three young boys clambered for her attention. She banters playfully before sending them off to do their own homework.

"I love coming here," says Jordan, who thinks she might like to be child psychologist some day.

Now a sophomore, Jordan is a standout track athlete, a member of the BHS speech team and has performed in two BHS musicals. Life is full for Jordan, yet the Club remains an important place for her and her two younger siblings.

"I just have a special bond with the Club," says Jordan, who appreciates the Club as a place where everyone feels welcome. "All the Club staff and kids are like family to me."