

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

P.O. Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619
218-444-4171

An Evening of Love for our Kids
February 8, 2019
Hampton Inn & Suites, Bemidji



Photography by Trish

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 72
Bemidji, MN

VIP and early registration deadline, January 4 ♦ All registrations are due February 1

New this year:

Add a VIP Gala experience today! With an additional contribution of \$300 your entire table will enjoy:

- ♦ 16 complimentary drink tickets for the table
- ♦ 2 complimentary bottles of champagne
- ♦ Premier white glove service,
 - ▶ expedited food service
 - ▶ tableside drink service (cash bar after use of 16 drink tickets)
- ♦ Preferred seating

Menu

Chicken Minnesota (gluten friendly)
Wild rice stuffed boneless breast of chicken,
with a toasted hazelnut cream sauce.
Rosemary red skinned potatoes
and green bean almondine and a house salad.

OR

Shiitake Scallopine (vegan)
Angel hair pasta with mushrooms, shallots, garlic,
small capers and marinated artichoke hearts
with a white wine reduction.

Presented by:

FIRST NATIONAL
BANK BEMIDJI



Thanks to:

One lucky Gala attendee will have a chance to win a diamond valued at \$2,000!



Use this form to register for the Gala or go online. Payment must be received by 1/4/19 for early bird pricing.

Name: _____ ☐ Chicken ☐ Vegan

Name: _____ ☐ Chicken ☐ Vegan

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Special Dietary Requests? _____

Email: _____

☐ Individual Ticket # _____ \$75 before 1/4/19 (\$60.50 tax-deductible)
\$100 after 1/4/19 (\$85.50 tax-deductible)

OR

☐ Reserve a table of 8 for friends and family \$600 before 1/4/19, \$800 after. We will contact you for details.
☐ YES, UPGRADE my table to a VIP TABLE add \$300

Total enclosed \$ _____

OR

☐ I am unable to attend but wish to support kids by making a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Payment options: Mail check and registration to BGCBA, PO Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619. To charge a credit card please go to bgcbemidji.org (Visa, Mastercard or Discover).

BE GREAT

Fall 2018 Newsletter



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Warren family believes in Club mission for bright futures



Photography by Trish

Club board member Gabriel Warren and his wife, Ebony, and two sons, Christian, front, and Gabriel II are pleased to be a second-generation Club family.

Gabriel and Ebony Warren are proud to partner with donors like you to help children in our community grow into caring citizens.

For Gabriel Warren, having a Boys Club in his hometown of Phenix City, Alabama, made a significant difference in his life.

“I first joined the Club when I was nine years old,” says Gabriel, “and I stayed with it all the way through school. It made a big difference in my life and in the lives of my friends.”

Without the Club, Gabriel believes crime would have been higher in his community. “The Club kept us out of trouble and gave us a positive direction in life,” he says. “Also, the staff were positive role models for us – some of whom I’m still in touch with today.”

Gabriel, now assistant professor of business

administration at Bemidji State University, sits on the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area. He and his wife, Ebony, moved to Bemidji in 2017 with their sons, Gabriel II, 10, and Christian, 7. The boys attend the Club, which helped ease their transition to their new community. They excel in math, science and athletics and enjoy a wide range of Club activities, which sometimes includes help with homework.

But it’s the relationships they develop at the Club and the networking with others that the boys find most important.

“They don’t attend the Club because they need to,” says Ebony. “They attend because they want to. They love to go! And because Gabriel and I know what a positive effect it will have on their lives.”

15 Years of community investment makes impact on 4000 youth

Thanks to your generosity, the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area will celebrate its 15 year anniversary this November. It has been an exciting journey that started with community voices and a concern for youth and their future. After a community assessment, a temporary Club facility opened for elementary youth in 2003 serving 20 kids a day. Leonore Potter, founding executive director, along with the Club board launched a \$2,000,000 capital campaign to build a permanent Clubhouse and the George W. Neilson Foundation led the efforts with a generous \$1,050,000 investment. Local individuals, area businesses and foundations rallied to raise the remaining funds.

Your 35,000 sq. foot Clubhouse was opened in 2005 and began serving over 80 youth a day. This new space helped youth discover art and technology, get help with homework in the library and tutoring centers and enjoy nutritious snacks and meals. This addition was added to the former Bemidji High School B building/gym, which the school district donated.

Since then, your investment and key partnerships have made a significant impact on the lives of children and teens by:

- **Serving** a daily snack and healthy lunches in the summer to address issues of food insecurity, nutrition and obesity.
- **Opening a High School Teen Center** in 2009 with a canteen, lounge, study area, tech lab giving teens the opportunity to hang out with their peers in a safe place, study, learn life skills and be independent.
- **Providing consistency for youth with caring staff and key programs** like ProjectLearn; helping kids learn, set goals and accomplish their homework, Smart Moves; helping kids resist the use of tobacco, alcohol and make smart choices, TriplePlay; helping kids improve their mind, body and soul and MoneyMatters; helping kids learn money management and budgeting skills and CareerLaunch; helping tweens/teens

discover their skills and get them ready for our workforce.

- **Developing a gardening program** where Club members learn about good nutrition while they grow, harvest over 1,000 pounds annually and prepare fresh produce. Thanks to you and the University of MN Extension and high tunnel grant in 2012, our kids are eating more vegetables and learning about business and marketing through on-site farmer's markets.
- **Reducing transportation barriers and providing access to more youth** to join the Club by transporting kids afterschool in partnership with Paul Bunyan Transit and new Club van (2013, anonymously donated by a local couple).
- **Supporting youth leadership programs** like Youth of the Year so youth like Allie Shimkus, BHS junior and nine year Club member, competed and won the Minnesota title in 2018, winning \$15,000 in educational scholarships so she may pursue her great future in psychology and give back to those who need us most.
- **Providing funds to care for our Clubhouse** along with generous corporate, foundation and in-kind support to replace our gym roof, add a learning lobby, expand our outdoor educational center and complete our parking lot in 2016 so now up to 200 Club members a day and numerous community organizations can utilize our facility to better serve thousands of Bemidji area residents.

We appreciate your faithful support since our inception 15 years ago. It has been critical to serving almost 4,000 youth! As we look to the future, individual giving is as important as ever since 70% of our funds raised annually are directly from businesses, local foundations and individuals like you! Thank you for investing in the future of Bemidji's youth and helping them discover their own GREAT future!

Congratulations to our own National Service to Youth Award Winner



L-R: Ann Ollila, Paul and Pam Mork, Karl Mork, Leonore Potter, Sue Engel and Andrea Ohnstad

In 2003 Karl Mork was a Bemidji State student looking to make an impact. He knew that he wanted to work with kids. When he heard the community was considering opening a Boys & Girls Club, he inquired about a position before the Club even opened. Karl was hired for ten hours a week as the education and technology coordinator, helping youth with homework and engaging them in high yield learning activities. He quickly fell in love with the Club's mission and changed his major at BSU to Applied Psychology to eventually help open the door to a career position within the Club. Upon BSU graduation in 2007, Karl completed an internship at the Boys Girls Club of America in their Atlanta office. "When I left for Atlanta I knew I wanted to work in Clubs, but didn't know where I would find a career opportunity. Happenstance was that my predecessor and mentor in Bemidji switched careers while I was at Boys & Girls Club of America and I jumped on the chance to come back home." After six years as Club program director, Karl moved into a new role as impact and administrative director and

now serves youth in a new way, by providing leadership in human resources, technology, along with financial, grant, volunteer and facility management.

"Karl Mork is a man of many talents. When he was in direct service with kids at the Club, he exuded hopefulness and acceptance to each child as they walked through the door. Now as the impact and administrative director, Karl uses his analytical skills, creativity and 15 years of experience with the Club to keep the Club forward thinking so that it continues its place as a community builder in Bemidji, and most importantly, a safe haven for kids" said Leonore Potter, founding Club executive director.

The National Service to Youth Award is for Club staff, board members or other volunteers who have attained five or more years of devoted full or part-time service to the Boys & Girls Club Movement. The National Service to Youth Award bears the inscription "For long and devoted service to boys and girls."

Congratulations Karl!

Russ Moen rallies golfers year after year to benefit Club kids



Club kids thank Russ Moen for 14 years as golf event chair.

This past summer marked the 14th anniversary of the annual Bob Lowth Ford Golf Tournament for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. The event was founded in 2005, only two years into the Club's inception, when then board member, Dennis Doeden approached Russ Moen about the idea of a golf outing as a fundraiser.

"At first I was thinking in terms of golf," says Russ. "And at the time, we had only two open golf tournaments in Bemidji, the Gordy Skaar and the Lumberjack Scramble."

Dennis and Russ felt that an anchor sponsor was needed as a partner—to underwrite the tournament costs—so Russ approached

And although the tournament is only a one day event, Russ explains that it still involves an enormous amount of organizing—a lot of time and effort.

"Sometimes I ask myself why I still do it, because it's a lot of work. But then when I see the result every year, I don't know how I can't do it."

What started out as something about golf to Russ, soon became something that was all about the kids.

Bob and Todd Lowth about the idea, and when the Lowths agreed, the event was born. Russ then implemented a "play your own ball" format for the event which he borrowed from a tournament in Moorhead, trying to make it fun friendly. Then he started soliciting interest in players.

"We raised about \$2,500 that first year," says Russ. "Now we raise over \$30,000. It has become a major fundraiser for the Club."

"You cannot measure the impact that these dollars have," says Russ. "I know the Club plays a big part in these kid's lives and in turn, it plays a significant role in the cultural health of our community, and far beyond."

You can donate stock for brigher futures

If you have owned a corporate stock for at least 12 months, and donate that stock to the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, the IRS allows you to deduct its full market value without paying any tax on the long-term capital gain. This benefits both you and the Club. You get an additional tax deduction and the Club receives a larger gift than if you had sold the stock, paid tax on the gain, and given the remainder to the Club. Most importantly you will have a significant impact on the lives of our Club members and our community.

How to give stock to the Club:

Stockbrokers require delivery instructions in writing. To make a gift to the Club, you will need to give the following information to your broker:

Firm Name: Raymond James Financial Service, Inc.

Primary Contact: Ryan Welle at 218-333-4313; ryan.welle@raymondjames.com

DTC Number: 0725, Account Number: 31657114

For the Benefit of: Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area

It is important to notify the Club when you have completed your request to your broker. To ensure the timely completion of your transaction or if you have any questions, please contact Andrea Ohnstad, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area at (218) 444-4171 or aohnstad@paulbunyan.net. If you transfer stock before December 31, you can claim the tax deduction on that year's tax return.

Give now and your gift will be doubled!

give TO THE MAX
NOV. 15, 2018

Up to \$12,000 in gifts made through Nov. 15 will be matched thanks to an anonymous donor as part of Minnesota's Give to the Max Day. Just designate the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area as your charity of choice when making a Give to the Max gift. Give anytime at bgcbemidji.org or at the Club, 1600 Minnesota Ave. NW. Or make a gift in person on Nov. 15 at Lueken's North or South stores, 5-7 p.m., or at the Club, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

- STEM Day – November 1
- Give to the Max Day – November 15
- Bowl-a-thon – January 26th
- "An Evening of Love for our Kids" annual Gala – February 8, 2019

Connect with us
bgcbemidji.org



Special thanks to Mark Thorson for his contributions to this newsletter.