

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BEMIDJI AREA

PO Box 191, Bemidji, MN 56619

218-444-4171



Hailey, second grade, plants the first seeds of spring.
INSIDE: Club gardeners to be featured on PBS.
See story on page 3

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BE GREAT



Spring 2018 newsletter

Meet Allie Shimkus, your 2018 Youth of the Year



Allie Shimkus has earned 2018 Youth of the Year honors.

Photography by Trish

Thank you for investing in Allie and creating a “happy place” for children to grow into caring adults.

It’s National Boys & Girls Club Week April 9-13

Celebrate with us! All kids, ages 6-18, are welcome to join us as a visitor for one or more days!

Join us April 9-13 as we celebrate National Boys & Girls Club Week with a lineup of special events. If you are willing to be a volunteer for STEM Day or another day, contact Shelby Weckwerth at sweckwerth@paulbunyan.net.

- Monday, 4/9 – academic success, a day of education activities, shop our book sale: 4-6pm
- Tuesday, 4/10 – STEM Day, the Headwaters Science Center brings science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities to the Club, volunteers needed 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/11 – good character and citizenship, a day of community service, join us & serve alongside our Club members
- Thursday, 4/12 – healthy lifestyles, a day of fitness and fun, Club tours at 3:30 p.m
- Friday, 4/13 – Club celebration, wear your Club blue, come see our talent show at 4 p.m.

SAVE
THE
DATE!

- Annual Campaign: March – June
- National Night Out: Aug. 7
- Pint Night: July 25
- Golf Tournament: Aug. 20



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

Every kid deserves a great future.

bgcbemidji.org



Your Club support creates a “happy place for children,” says Allie Shimkus, a junior at Bemidji High School and 2018 Youth of the Year, who describes the Club as her second home.

She joined the Club nine years ago and was eager to be a helper. “Staff gave me responsibilities and that helped me to flourish,” says Allie, who has volunteered hundreds of hours at the Club and for the last three years, has been a junior staff member.

“My main goal as a staffer is for kids to leave here in a better mood and to build good relationships,” she says. “There are kids who come to the Club who don’t have a lot of positive relationships in their lives.”

Thanks to your generosity, teens like Allie find an open door at the Club and opportunities to mentor

younger children, learn about healthy life choices and grow into leaders. And thanks to you, children of all ages build positive relationships at the Club.

As a candidate for the Minnesota Youth of the Year, Allie will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to advance to the Midwest regional based on a series of essays, an interview with judges and speech about her Club experience.

“A big responsibility” is how Allie describes the honor. “It makes me think about what it means to be a role model,” says Allie, who is grateful to you and donors like you who believe in her future.

“It warms my heart when a Club kid recognizes me somewhere and says ‘Hi’ or gives me a hug,” says Allie, who wants every child to find the kind of support that you have given her.

You can make a big difference while saving your tax dollars

You may be looking for a way to make a big difference in furthering our Club mission. If so, consider your options with your IRA and/or highly appreciated assets.

If you are 70½ or older you may be interested in lowering the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.

- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of the Club

Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to us. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year

Have your investments increased in value?

While an increase in your stock value is good news, it can also be costly. When you sell long-term investments, other than funds held



Your gift to the Club is an investment in first-graders like Cami and Amandea, who both hope for great futures.

in an IRA, you will likely pay tax on the difference between your original investment and its current value.

Say you purchased 100 shares of stock at \$100 each in 2010, a

\$10,000 investment, which are now valued at \$1,000 each for a total of \$100,000. You invested well! Depending on your tax bracket, you will pay a 15-20 percent federal tax on long-term capital gain when you sell those shares. That's \$15,000-\$20,000 in taxes. You will also have additional state tax liability. That's a lot of taxes!

A charitable transfer might be an option for you. If you transferred those funds to the Club, you would pay no capital gains and you would get a tax deduction for the full \$100,000 value. You win, and you make a significant investment in the lives of children.

Thank you to Jim Loken, of Thrivent Financial and Boys & Girls Club of America for content for this story.

For more information, contact Andrea Ohnstad, 218-444-4171. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Miss Elsa in the library shares the joy of reading



Yesui, Miss Elsa Znajda and Korbin share a moment in the Club library.

Does your goldfish need a leash? Miss Elsa Znajda smiles and so does Korbin, a first-grader, as they share together a picture book of silly illustrations.

Elsa volunteers in the Club library two days a week where she has an eager audience in children like Korbin. Elsa is a reading tutor. She has a special affinity with every child who yearns to read.

"I came to this country without reading the language," says Elsa, who at age seven spoke Spanish and a little Polish and Italian when she moved with her family from Argentina in 1955 and landed in a third-grade classroom.

Her uncle had given her two Spanish comic books, which she remembers reading again and again until the pages fell out. Until she mastered English, learning was hard. In fifth grade, an attentive teacher helped her bridge the gap, and the world of reading opened for her.

Elsa's favorite book? "Heidi," a gift from her fifth-grade teacher. She still has the book.

Now she enjoys Club children like Korbin, Grace and Yesui as they discover their own reading adventures. She takes pride in their progress. Yesui, for example, struggled with reading as a first grader. Now two years later, she has read the entire Harry Potter series and recently won an award for reading a million words. "I'm really proud of her," says Elsa. "I like to watch the children's progress."

Miss Elsa's hope for Club children: "That they continue to learn, to read and find a world full of peace."

Thank you for giving Club children a library and the opportunity to read with Miss Elsa.

Join our Circle of Friends, a program for business partners

When you join our Circle of Friends, you plan a whole year of giving with one annual commitment. You can also make a three-year commitment, so your gifts and sponsorship best serve Club kids and meet your business needs. Many thanks to our pacesetters in 2018 who have made a three-year commitment as friends of the Club:

- First National Bank Bemidji
- Paul Bunyan Communications
- Sanford Health
- Tru Star Federal Credit Union

Learn more about our Circle of Friends at bgcbemidji.org under the "Friends & events tab." Or contact us at 218-444-4171.



Thank you, business partners, for investing in Michael, Arianna and Vincent, who represent a future generation of helping hands.

Four boys in a row are ready to celebrate Boys & Girls Club Week



From the front: Eli, Christian and Isaac, first grade, and Avery, third grade.

Tune in: Your Club kids will be featured on PBS

Your Club gardening program will be featured in a segment of "Common Ground" to be aired at 7 p.m., May 3, on Lakeland PBS. The program will be repeated several times on Lakeland's Prime and Plus channels. It will post 36 hours earlier at 7:05 a.m., May 2, on the Common Ground PBS Facebook page.

Many thanks to Scott Knudson, managing producer/director of Lakeland PBS, for filming and production. And many thanks to you, our donors, who give children the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn life-long gardening skills.

CLUB WISH LIST

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