



P.O. Box 191  
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### Community Pint Night

June 10th | 4-7 p.m.  
Bemidji Brewing Company

### Golf Championship

August 17th  
Bemidji Town & Country Club  
Interested in sponsorship?  
Contact Jamie Boyles.  
[jamie.boyles@bgcbemidji.org](mailto:jamie.boyles@bgcbemidji.org)

EVENTS ARE PENDING COVID-19 GUIDELINES

keep each other safe  
**wash your hands**



Taryn shows  
off her "You've  
been tagged"  
badge.



While the Club was open, kids found fun ways to encourage good handwashing habits to curtail the spread of the coronavirus. We hope all our Club kids - and you, too - wash your hands often and thoroughly.

### BE THE "I" IN KIND



**Be KIND, everyone, to yourself,  
your family and your friends.**

#### COVID-19 AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

The recently enacted government stimulus bill, the CARES Act, provides additional tax relief for donors. You can make a gift to support youth and accrue a tax benefit. Learn more by visiting our Coronavirus Update page at [bgcbemidji.org](http://bgcbemidji.org).



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

## Your support made all the difference for Olivia, our 2020 Youth of the Year



### Olivia

CLUB MEMBER  
since 2013

**Olivia Stapleton**, our 2020 Youth of the Year and senior at Bemidji High School, shares a message of gratitude for the support and encouragement she found at the Boys & Girls Club over the last seven years.

"I've had a lot of struggles in my life, but the Club staff never gave up on me," she says. "Staff have been a big part of helping me through things. I've grown up a lot at the Club."

As a child, Olivia remembers that she didn't make friends easily or get along well with teachers. She says she was sometimes "a difficult child" and reluctant to participate in Club activities. Club staff stuck with her.

Today, Olivia attends the Club most days and holds one of the Club's top attendance records. She loves art, the teen center and volunteering. This year, Olivia helped younger children prepare for the Club's National Fine Arts competition. Five of her own art pieces advanced to the regionals.

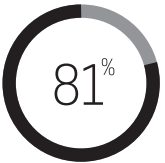
She is grateful to the Club for giving her opportunities to do art and spend time with staff and other Club members. "The people," she says, "are the best thing about the Club."

Olivia shared her Club story at the Minnesota Youth of the Year competition in March, which was held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of traveling to St. Paul, candidates used video streaming to deliver speeches and conduct interviews from their home clubs.

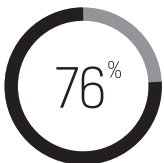
As a participant, Olivia receives a \$1,000 scholarship, an award she plans to use next year to attend Bemidji State University and study art and design. Her message to other Club teens: "Even if your life starts out rough, you can overcome anything if you believe in yourself."

"The people at the Club changed my life. They helped me build confidence, and they challenged me to get out of my comfort zone."  
- Olivia

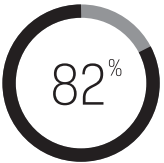
### DID YOU KNOW IN A SURVEY OF CLUB TEENS



believe they can make a difference in their community



ask for advice when making an important decision



will stand up for what is right, even when friends disagree



# Understanding ACEs to **help kids thrive** in the time of COVID-19

When you support the Club, you help us address challenges around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that affect us all, children and adults.

“That’s especially important right now with the coronavirus,” says Morgan Morgenstern, academic success and outreach assistant director.

ACEs are well-studied risk factors such as poverty, addiction, job loss, homelessness, chronic illness – and other stressors -- that can adversely affect lifelong health and opportunity. One way to help address the effects of ACEs is to provide children with stable, loving and caring relationships.

“With the coronavirus, we know a lot of kids are feeling anxiety,” says Morgan. “One of the best things we can do is stay in touch with them, let them know that we care about what’s happening in their lives even when they can’t come to the Club.”

With the Club closed, Morgan and other staff are staying in touch with Club kids via online projects, video chats, phone calls and pen pal exchanges.



Our Club staff partner with Peacemaker Resources in Bemidji to provide staff training about ACEs, what to look for and how to support children by building positive relationships.



**CREATIVITY** at work here

Our Club kids rocked the **2020 National Fine Arts competition** with 27 entries, submitted by 17 Club members, advancing to regionals. More than 70 members entered 153 pieces of art in a variety of categories, all judged by age group, at our Bemidji Club. Regional winners will advance to the National competition this spring.

1st-3rd graders **practiced sight-word skills** with the help of Bemidji Area Reading Canines

4th-5th graders **played hide-and-seek and sardines**, all-time favorite games, as part of Junior Night

1st-3rd graders in the Science Club **learned how air pressure propels bottle rockets**

We beat cabin fever with learning and fun...

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12

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## CLUB KIDS WARM HER HEART



**Karla Schumacher** is grateful to have grown up with loving parents, so in tribute to them, she supports the Club, a place where kids find kindness, fun and caring professionals.

**Karla** gives in memory of her parents

“I call it pennies from heaven,” says Karla, who made a matching gift of some of her inheritance from her parents. “My parents would be thrilled with it, and they would be very happy for me that I get to be at the Club.”

Karla started volunteering at the Club in 2018 after retiring from a paralegal career and moving from Kansas. Having never worked with children, she is sometimes surprised and saddened by the challenges some children face. She is also impressed with how Club staff respond.

“I just cannot get over the staff who work with these kids,” she says. “When someone needs special attention, they are there with kind words and support. They are strict but not negative and that’s such a joy.”

For Karla, watching the Club close for the coronavirus has been hard. “I didn’t realize that I had a big hole in my life, and I never thought I would fill it in Bemidji,” she says. “I give a big thank you to all the people who work at the Club. They’re like family.”

**“The Club gives my heart giggles. It’s a special place and I will do anything I can to get the word out.”**

Karla Schumacher

A gift in tribute to a loved one is a powerful way to support a child. Learn more about ways to give by contacting Emily Fairchild, resource development director.

emily.fairchild@bgcbemidji.org

## OUR WISH LIST

reams of paper, postage stamps, heavy duty stapler, sketchbooks, painting canvas panels (all sizes)  
for the complete list visit [www.bgcbemidji.org/give](http://www.bgcbemidji.org/give)

# welcome to our **Cyber Clubhouse**

When our Clubhouse closed to curtail the spread of the coronavirus, Shelby Weckwerth, unit director, and her program staff got creative. On April 1, they launched our first-ever Cyber Clubhouse.



**“We’re going to need a lot of extra love and support at the Club, but we’re going to get through this.”**

Shelby Weckwerth

“We know the most important thing we do every day is build relationships with our kids,” says Shelby. “We had to figure out fast how we were going to keep those relationships going.”

Cyber programs focus on keeping kids healthy and active, learning and having fun. Activities include art, science, read-a-longs and help with homework. Plus, we have a pen pal club.

“This is the longest the Club has ever been closed in our Club history,” says Shelby. “We want to do everything we can to stay connected with our kids.”

Every week features new activities, as well as social media links, so our kids see familiar faces. Check us out on the Cyber Clubhouse tab – under Join the Club – at [bgcbemidji.org](http://bgcbemidji.org).

4th-5th graders made biweekly trips to the **Headwaters Science Center**

weekly **volunteer trips** for 6th-12th graders to **Great River Rescue** to give some love to cats and dogs

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