

your support provides a safe place for youth to find themselves

Eclipse Holleman, 2022 Youth of the Year, shares how the Club has been a second home and family to her for over 11 years. It provided a safe and supportive place to find herself.

"My birth name is Chloe. However, at the Club, I go by Eclipse. I started to feel uncomfortable with my given name due to past traumas in my life," Eclipse shares. "The Club has given me a fresh start. It's the only place in my life where I feel safe to make this change. I knew the staff at the Club would provide the support I need to finally feel comfortable in my own name and skin."

Eclipse speaks highly of her time at the Club, especially about the guidance and encouragement she received from the staff. "From first grade and learning how to count to now working on algebra homework as a high school junior, the staff have always been there to help me succeed academically."

She also attributes Club staff, especially Morgan (pictured below) with helping her learn how to control her emotions, explore coping skills, and advocate for herself and others in need.

The next step is for Eclipse to compete in the Minnesota Youth of the Year competition on April 26th. Eclipse has received a \$1,000 educational scholarship by winning our local Youth of the Year competition and plans to pursue a degree in early childhood education or nursing. Eclipse shares, "The Club has instilled my passion for volunteerism. I want to have a profession that gives back to the community and others."

The Club has helped me become a better and stronger leader.

I have more confidence in who I am and what I can do. Because of the Club I have grown into a better person.



Eclipse
Club member
since 2010, junior
at Bemidji High
School

**"I wouldn't be
where or who I am
today without the Club.
The Boys & Girls Club is
the greatest blessing
in my life."**



boys & girls club week

GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

- Club kids give back to our community by creating care kits for Evergreen Youth & Family Services.
- Kids know the importance of play! Cat and dog toys will be given to Great River Rescue.
- **Kindness goes a long way.** Youth will draw pictures and write cards to long-term care residents.



MONDAY

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

- Planting is underway with support of MN Department of Agriculture and USDA grants. Seedlings will be ready to go in the ground in May.
- Kids will **run and jump and stretch** with track & field activities.
- Healthy lifestyle, healthy mind! Members will build coping skills and create a calming bottle or stress ball.

TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



STEAM

- Headwaters Science Center will lead cool science demonstrations for Club kids - with visits from reptiles and raptors, and [safely] blowing things up!
- **Art and science will combine** as kids create artbots.

FRIDAY

CLUB CELEBRATION

- Everyone is encouraged to wear Club Blue!
- No celebration is complete without cake!
- Kids who attend the Club more often get more out of their experience - so we're celebrating those who attended the most - some as many as **1,000 times!**



Boys & Girls Clubs are filled with great moments. And those moments are filled with engagement, inspiration and empowerment - the perfect formula for great futures that are within reach of every young person who enters our doors. We are celebrating those moments during Boys & Girls Club Week, held annually to recognize the role of the Club in our community and helping kids dream big and realize their full potential. This year, we will celebrate April 18-22 with a week full of fun activities!

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Kids will have the chance to **envision themselves on graduation day.**
- Academic programs are possible through United Way of Bemidji Area support.
- Books are fun! Each Club member will get one book to take home.

a simple life AN EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY

"Betty had a heart for kids," was the first thing Karen Oftelie said. Karen, a retired First National Bank banker was a dear friend of the late Betty Masoner. Betty graduated from Bemidji High School, Bemidji State Teachers College and taught in eight MN school districts, with Browerville in her last 30 years. Teaching was her passion. Only due to health concerns, Betty unenthusiastically retired at 80 years young.

Betty's whole life was about inspiring the love of learning, especially through science, music, and drama. So when Betty decided to name the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area as one of her CD beneficiaries, it was no surprise to Karen. She knew her friend wanted to ensure that future generations had access to programs that inspired learning, creativity, and fun, and also provided meals so children wouldn't go hungry... what better place than the Club.

Betty was actively involved in Bemidji Music Camp, Bemidji Area Community Band, and BSU Symphonic Band. Another passion was writing and directing school Veterans Day programs by which she impacted the lives of thousands of students and community members. Though she lived a modest and ordinary life, her last act of kindness was extraordinary.

To learn more about naming your beneficiaries and leaving a legacy for children, contact Emily Fairchild, resource development director or Andrea Kent, executive director.



KAREN & BETTY



BETTY MASONER

SPACE TO GROW AND be recognized

Nothing makes the staff feel better than to hear that Club time is the highlight of a kid's day, and the Weber-Rolly family is special because it's doubled at the Club. Ken, age 8, has been a member since first grade in Fall 2020, and his brother Lincoln, age 12, has attended since Spring 2018.



ARTWORK BY KEN

SIBLINGS LINCOLN & KEN

It took Ken some time to determine how he wanted to express his personality at school and the Club, but his parents and the Club staff allowed him the space to figure that out. Now, Ken is known at the Club for writing and performing his songs - lyrics, music, and dance moves included.

Ken & Lincoln's mom shared her thanks with the Boys & Girls Club of America national office last school year after Ken joined the Club. "We knew the Club would be a safe space. The work Sara and McKenna have done to make the Club inclusive and educated for our kiddo brings tears to my eyes... it's wonderful to feel our Ken emotionally embraced and recognized for who they are."

**Lincoln and Ken
enjoy creative
time at the Club.**



If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, visit our website: bgcbemidji.org



P.O. Box 191
Bemidji, MN 56619
218.444.4171 • bgcbemidji.org



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**Save the date for
our 18th Annual Golf
Fore Club Kids 2-Person
Golf Championship!**

Monday, August 22 at the
Bemidji Town & Country
Club with a shotgun
start at 1 p.m.

Interested in sponsorships?
Find more information at
bgcbemidji.org.

fun times AHEAD

We are looking forward to another fun-filled summer. Weekly activities include trips to area parks and playgrounds, dedicated time for reading, outdoor and hydroponic gardening, and so much more! The Club is a Child Care Assistance Program site for qualified families.

The program will enroll youth as space allows, apply now at bgcbemidji.org.



JOIN OUR TEAM

We have positions both working with Club youth and on the administration side. Part-time and full-time options available. You can make a difference in the lives of those who need us most. See our positions on our website for full job descriptions and links to apply. For any questions, call the Club at 218-444-4171 and ask for Karl.

