

Celebrating Sue

SPIRIT OF THE MISSION AWARD

Sue Engel's resiliency, tenacity, determination, and devotion helped build the Club into what it is today.

She was a founding member, first board president, a member of the Heritage Club, golf and gala committee member, and overall volunteer extraordinaire.

We lost Sue in December after a tenacious fight with cancer. She said then that she was not afraid to go but sad to be leaving all of us.

We are sad, too, and very grateful to have had her in our lives. **The Club was one of her greatest loves. And she will be dearly missed.**

We cannot begin to account for the many ways she shaped this Club, cared for our youth, and showered all of us with her kindness. Sue was a beloved advocate, the biggest cheerleader, and a true Club champion.

At the Club's annual gala event held in February, it was with great honor that we presented the inaugural Sue Engel Spirit of the Mission Award to her husband, Steve. Sue embodied the mission of the Club and believed we all have a responsibility to support youth so they can create great futures. She inspired others to give and join in her passion for the Club's mission.

The Club will honor Sue's legacy by passing this award to a new recipient each year at our annual gala.

For Sue, the Club was such a happy place, and she wanted to share that joy with others. She brought Club kids and all of us into her heart. Andrea Kent, Executive Director



CINDY AND SUE



Sue held a generous space in her heart for the Club. Her passion inspired us all.
Cindy Serratore



STEVE AND SUE

CLUB WEEK

DALE LARSON DAY OF KINDNESS AND SHARING

The Club will celebrate the school year with our annual Boys & Girls Club Week, hosted this year on April 24-28. Boys & Girls Club Week is an annual celebration of our mission. During the week, Club kids and teens will focus on activities tied to three key impact areas: academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character & citizenship.

Thursday, April 27 will be the Dale Larson Day of Kindness & Sharing. Activities on this day will honor a generous gift from Dale Larson and his family, former CEO of Larson Manufacturing and current President of Larson Foundation. Teens will visit Great River Rescue to volunteer at the animal shelter, and the kids will deliver goodie baskets in the community. Club staff and youth will plant a new fruit tree at the Club, weather permitting. Our thanks to Dale Larson, his family, and the Larson Manufacturing employees and retirees that made this gift possible. We are grateful for your leadership in kindness and sharing!

Youth will explore career and education paths on Day of Great Futures. We will partner with Headwaters Science Center for a STEM Day (science, technology, engineering & math) featuring demonstrations with furry and scaly friends. The week ends with Club Celebration Day, with extra special treats and a talent show.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to check out our latest pictures and videos from Club Week!



shaping up to learn

Programs at the Club are designed to be high-yield learning activities, making the most of out-of-school time. Our Mightys (Club members in grades 1-3) learned about different shapes and got hands-on by creating new shapes on geoboards. Older Club members in grades 4-12 really enjoy building robots, then writing code so the robots move. Hands-on learning sticks with kids, helping them build cognitive understanding and have fun. Our year-round, comprehensive garden

program is one of our most popular programs at the Club. It incorporates hydroponic growing units, high-tunnel and raised beds, and engages youth in seed-to-plate programming. These kinds of high-yield learning activities are possible through donor and grant support.

Otto Bremer Trust has invested in our general operations to provide youth development through outreach and out-of-school-time programming in Bemidji and the surrounding communities.



OTTO
BREMER
TRUST



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Shelby Weckwerth, Grants Director
Trish Ritchie, Marketing & Events Coordinator
Amber Williams, HR & Finance Coordinator
Morgan Morgenstern, Unit Director

the brightest LIGHT

It is our distinct honor to introduce our 2023 Youth of the Year, Eclipse Holleman.

Youth of the Year (YOY) is a national leadership and scholarship program where local Clubs recognize their outstanding youth. Eclipse is a senior at Bemidji High School and an active Club member. Eclipse walked through our Club doors over 11 years ago and has become like family. This is the second consecutive time Eclipse has been named our local Youth of the Year.

Eclipse recognizes the Club for helping her discover and practice her strengths. "I am empathetic, kind, and compassionate. I work hard, I listen well, I engage with others, and I look for the best in people. These strengths will guide me in my future and allow me to be the light for other youth."

As Bemidji's Youth of the Year, Eclipse received a \$2,000 scholarship. She won this through the YOY program which requires essays, letters of recommendation, a speech, and interview. The process was conducted and scored by volunteer judges. We are grateful for the time and dedication of our 2023 judges Karla Schumacher, Rose Brown and Dr. Joy Hoffman, and our YOY coaches Michele Brielmaier and Morgan Morgenstern.

"The Club is the greatest blessing and brightest light in my life." Eclipse shared her story at the state Youth of the Year competition on March 15. She did an outstanding job! Eclipse, we are so proud of you for being brave, for being a leader, and for sharing your story. Thank you for sharing your bright light!

"The Club is the greatest blessing and brightest light in my life."

ECLIPSE
HOLLEMAN



GALA 2023 SUCCESS

An Evening of Love for our Kids

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area hosted its annual gala on February 24 at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The gala, An Evening of Love for Our Kids, attracted over 200 guests and raised over \$193,000 to support year-round programs at the Club. This is the biggest fundraising event of the year and a historical amount raised for our Club.

OLIVIA



KYLE AND GARRETT

"We are absolutely in awe of the support from our community!" Andrea Kent, Executive Director.

"Our guests, sponsors, and auction contributors were truly GAME CHANGERS for Club kids, providing necessary funds for daily academic, social and emotional programs, funds for a safe and fun Clubhouse, funds for healthy foods, gardening, and intentional mentoring. We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love for our kids and mission."

Many thanks to the event committee and staff. Special mention to our major sponsors: Sanford Health, Mark Sand & Gravel, Accra Care, events + design by brianalynn, First National Bank Bemidji, Hampton Inn & Suites, Knife River Materials, and Paul Bunyan Communications.

SANFORD
HEALTH



accra

events + design by
brianalynn

FIRST NATIONAL
BANK BEMIDJI



KNIFE RIVER
MATERIALS

Paul Bunyan
COMMUNICATIONS

OUR WISH LIST

Laminating sheets, postage stamps, tape of all kinds, youth-sized footballs. For more ideas visit our website at bgcbemidji.org/give

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



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Join the conversation!
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**Save the date
for our Golf Fore Club
Kids Championship!**

*Bemidji Town & Country Club
Monday, August 21*

*Interested in helping youth? Be a sponsor!
Find more information at bgcbemidji.org*

SAMPLE

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1632 Bemidji Ave N Ste 2
Bemidji, MN 56601-3870



Summer Program FUN IN THE SUN

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



JOIN OUR TEAM

The Club is hiring for both year-round and summer positions, up to 40 hours a week.

See our positions on our website for job descriptions and links to apply. For any questions, call the Club at 218-444-4171 and ask for Karl.

