



1001 Cochran Street, Statesville, NC 28677

SUMMER, 2024
Volume 3, Issue 1, 6/15/2024, Summer

Dear Friends,

With Summer Camp 2024 in full gear, my thoughts have turned to the subject of gratitude. Robert Emmons author of a Greater Good essay entitled, "Why Gratitude Is Good" writes that gratitude has two key components.

"First," he states, "it's an affirmation of goodness. We affirm that there are good things in the world, gifts, and benefits we've received."

Emmons goes on to say, secondly, "we recognize that the sources of this goodness are outside of ourselves...We acknowledge that other people – or even a higher power, gave us many gifts, big and small, to help us achieve the goodness in our lives."

Emmons and other social scientists see the social dimension of acknowledging gratitude as being especially important. "I see it as a relationship-strengthening emotion", writes Emmons, "because it requires us to see how we've been supported and affirmed by other people."

Gratitude not only encourages us to appreciate gifts but to repay them - or pay them forward. Georg Simmel, sociologist, and author called gratitude, "the moral memory of mankind."

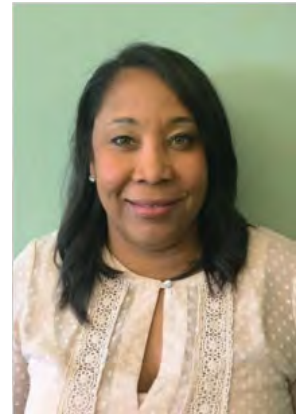
I am profoundly grateful to you for the investments you have made in the lives of our children. Local kids who needed us to give them a hand of support.

In this issue of our Club Newsletter, we share the story of a young man who has been with us since third grade. He recently graduated from college and is now ready to move on to the next chapter in his life. We have included a summary about Pancake Day, which truly exceeded our expectations. You will get to meet new partners to the Club and learn about how their generosity has impacted our work.

Finally, we are excited to share news about our Club expansion to new areas in our community and beyond which will allow us to serve even more children that need our collective support.

Your generosity of time, resources, and support mean the world to us. Without you our work would be impossible. On behalf of the board and the entire staff please accept our most sincere expression of gratitude as we acknowledge that you are a source of goodness which allows us to 'pay it forward' for the next generation of youth that need our support more than ever. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Clarissa Flowers Young
Executive Director

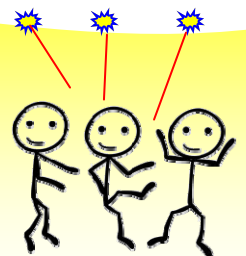


Presenting Sponsor

FLOW
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Celebrate Our Kids Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE PIEDMONT

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ALUMNUS

NIYIN MILLER



Niyin Miller has considered the Boys & Girls Club his second home since 2010 when he was in third grade at NB Mills Elementary School. Niyin states, “I loved the Club from day one. I attended the after-school program and summer camp each year. During the latter half of high school and all four years of college I worked at summer camp as a camp counselor for the Club. Working at the Club helped me make the decision to become a teacher in public schools.”

Niyin was raised by a loving mother and grandmother but did not have a father figure as a child. During the year that Niyin was in fifth grade he took a class at the Club called Passport to Manhood. He reflects that this class proved to be a turning point for him, “Cedric Mayberry was my teacher. I learned so much from him – make wise choices, give respect to earn respect, let your word be your bond, how to treat women, how to practice self-discipline and set goals.”

As the years passed, Niyin’s goal for his life started to become clearer. He loved learning, he enjoyed sports – could he become a teacher and coach? “The Boys & Girls Club taught me leadership skills, the importance of developing lasting relationships, to believe in my abilities and be confident.” During his high school and college years Niyin was identified as a leader and an outstanding public speaker.

Niyin points out that his support structure during his formative years centered around his family, his church, his schools, and the Boys & Girls Club. “The Club will always be part of my life. As I begin my career, I want to serve the Club as a tutor and mentor and hopefully one day I can serve as a member of the Board of Directors. Lots of good people helped me become who I am and now I want to do the same for the next generation.”

In May 2024, Niyin graduated with honors from Pfeiffer University with a Bachelor of Science in History with NC Teacher Licensure. He has accepted a position with West Iredell High School as a history teacher and assistant football coach.

BGCP wants to thank all the donors and volunteers that invested in Niyin and countless other local children. Without your support we could not accomplish our Mission: Enabling all young people, **especially those who need us most**, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Thank you!



The Boys & Girls Clubs of America Make a Difference.

Based on Boys & Girls Clubs of America Youth Outcome Data



97% of Club teens expect to graduate from high school and 80% had submitted an application to a post-secondary education.



75% of regularly attending members said they volunteered in their community, Club, school or neighborhood at least once in the past year.



88% of the Club youth said they can stand up for what is right; 91% of the Club youth reported as a leader, they make sure everyone feels important.

PENSKE TRUCK LEASING'S UNIQUE TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY IMPACTS OUR KIDS

The management team at Penske Truck Leasing in Statesville was looking for a way to spend some time together away from work and strengthen their team culture. They consider the usual events like a golf outing, rock climbing and go cart racing.



A new bike - Just in time for summer.

Then someone suggested taking the money they would spend on the traditional events and buying bicycles and helmets. They would spend the day building and fine tuning the bikes, then donate them to a local nonprofit that works with children.

Fortunately, the Boys & Girls Club was the organization the team chose to work with. With ten brand new bikes to distribute, our teachers decided to have interested students author an essay on why they wanted a new bike. Andreis wrote, "My sisters have a bike, but I don't. They ride every day and I just look out the window and watch them have fun. If I had a bike I would be out there with my sisters, happy as ever."

Several children wanted a bike for someone else, Lily wrote, "Dear Penske, I want a bike for my little brother because his bike is very girly, and it is from my sister. The tires and brakes don't work so he can't ride with us. He wants one for Christmas and his birthday, but my parents say - maybe next time".

Thank you, Penske Truck Leasing, for thinking out of the box and making your team building event so impactful for the children in our Club.

OUR WISH LIST

What to help? Here's our current needs list...

- Printer Paper – 8.5 x 11 (6 cases)
- Printer Paper – 11 x 17 (2 cases)
- Coloring Books (k-5)
- White board markers – Expo, dry erase
- Sticky Easel Pad Paper – 25 x 30 inches
- Used computers- desk tops and laptops (any condition)
- Office Volunteers – data entry, filing, bulk mailing, newsletter publication, and graphic design.



Erin Pharr (L) and Nicole Johnson (R) present proceeds from the employee vending machine sales at JMS Southeast for April, 2024 to Club Executive Director, Clarissa Young. What a unique way to show support.

PANCAKE DAY 2024 IS IN THE HISTORY BOOK (AND IN THE RECORD BOOK)

In 2022, our Board of Directors wanted to identify a new fundraising event that would bring the entire community together to help raise funding for the Club. They wanted an event that would appeal to a broad section of the community, including all ages, and all walks of life. They hoped for an event that was unique, sustainable, and profitable. In April of 2023, Pancake Day – Iredell's Happiest Day was launched.

Randy Marion Automotive Group signed on as the Title Sponsor for the inaugural event. The first year proved to be remarkably successful with 76 sponsors, 1,876 guests served, 260+ volunteers, and \$76,000 in profits for the Club.



Miss North Carolina, Taylor Loyd, was among this year's "Celebrity Chefs". Board members Bill Dixon, Julie Griffin, and Executive Director, Clarissa Young, were all on hand to volunteer.

We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic support we received in the first year and wondered if we could match or hopefully exceed the performance in year two.

The second annual Randy Marion Pancake Day – Iredell's Happiest Day was held April 17, 2024. We are happy to report that our community exceeded all expectations. This year's event produced 97 sponsors, 2,117 guests served, 280+ volunteers and generated \$130,000 in profits for our Club – a new record high which means we can serve more children.

Please see the list of all sponsors and supporters on our website and make sure you save the date of April 3, 2025 for the third annual Pancake Day – Iredell's Happiest Day.



Students from local charter schools enjoyed a trip to Pancake Day compliments of the Rotary Club of Statesville.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE PIEDMONT

Community Impact - By the Numbers



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE PIEDMONT

527 – Student members:
Main Campus – 476
Shepherd Elementary School – 51
429 – Healthy lifestyle Classes
396 – Art Enhancement Classes
297 – Digital Skills Classes
460 – Power Hour (Homework Help)

275 – Students in Summer Camp
1,679 - Tutorial Sessions (Math & Reading)
47 – Members in Students- in-Training
52 – Members in AWSG Program
18 – Public Schools Served
37,879 - Daily Meals Served

THANK YOU!!!



STUDENT in TRAINING (SiT) CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



SiT, the Club’s digital education program, began with a grant from the United Way of Iredell County – Community Foundation. SiT has three goals: (1) Teach marketable job skills to our students, (2) Keep E-Waste out of local landfills, and (3) Bridge the digital divide by gifting devices to people in the community that cannot purchase a computer.

We accomplish our goals by receiving donated computers. Our students are trained to access those devices. If the computer is still usable, our students load new software onto the device and it is given to individuals or other nonprofits in the area. Computers that cannot be reused are cannibalized for parts which are sold; other components are recycled.

Recently we have acquired new corporate partners who support us in these processes – L. Gordon Iron & Metal and Sprout. We have received donated computers from: Iredell Health Systems, Iredell County, Provision Document Solutions, Coffey, Lovings & Company, Pope, McMillan, Kutteh, & Schieck, PA, and many individual donations.



Our Partners from E2D.

We have also established a partnership with E2D, a nonprofit from Davidson and assisted with two community distribution events. To date SiT has recycled 6,700 pounds of E-waste and helped distribute 367 refurbished computers. If you have devices, you can donate or to schedule a visit to our classroom, please contact Terri Gonzalez at tgonzalez@piedmontbgc.org



Our students have enjoyed their Good News Club this summer - Thank you Lois Pemberton and Staff.

ABBY WINTHROP SMART GIRLS THRIVING AND GROWING

The third annual Abby Winthrop SMART Girls Leadership Camp is planned for July 15-19 at Mitchell Community College. This year's theme is Women of STEAM. We will be focusing on women who have successful careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. Justice Morrison, director of AWSG, reports that this year's participants will tour Kewanee Furniture, the Environmental Center at Allison's Woods, the Sullenberger Museum in Charlotte and more. Space is still available for girls in middle and high school at no cost. Email Justine Morrison at jmorrison@piedmontbgc.org with questions or to enroll.

Iredell Health Systems is sponsoring a unique opportunity for students interested in a career in the medical field. Med STEM Camp will be held July 9,11,16,18,23 and 25 on the main campus of Iredell Memorial Hospital and is reserved for members of BGCP and guests. Students will be given a behind the scenes look at what it takes to operate a modern health care facility and valuable information about careers in health care. Contact Justice Morrison to enroll. We are grateful to our partners at Iredell Health Systems for making this opportunity available to our students.



Members of Abby Winthrop Smart Girls got to meet NC Governor Roy Cooper.

BREAKING NEWS

We are excited to announce that AWSG will expand to North Iredell in the fall of 2024. Satellite programs will be opening on the campuses of Harmony, Union Grove, Cool Spring and Central Elementary Schools in September. Please visit our website for more details.



**ABBYS SMART
GIRLS**

“OPERATION IN AS MUCH” IMPACTS BGCP

Matthew 25:40 states,
“...Verily I say unto you,
inasmuch as ye have done it
unto one of the least of these
My brethren, ye have done it
unto Me.”

First Baptist Church of Statesville holds their annual Operation in as Much each spring. Elizabeth Kilby, Minister of Young Families & Adults is the coordinator for the events that serves nonprofits throughout the community. Church members select the agencies to be served. BGCP was selected this year. A team of volunteers visited the Club on Saturday, April 20th.

The volunteers cleaned out and added fresh top soil to the raised bed gardens with fresh soil, spread mulch around our trees and shrubs, replaced old planters and filled them with beautiful flowers, made carpentry repairs on interior windowsills, installed a new sandbox on the playground and painted four square game designs in the parking lot. More than 18 volunteers worked half a day.

Projects like this are so valuable to us. We rarely have funds to cover beatification projects like this. Our campus looks so alive and beautiful thanks to the kindness and generosity of First Baptist Church. Thank you for being a blessing!



NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CLUB

Steve Sears is the owner of Pro Visions Documents Solutions. Recently Steve and his wife Kimberly dropped by the Club to donate a car. The Club has been promoting the idea of accepting vehicles as a method of supporting our work. The donation from the Sears was our first vehicle donation of what we hope will be many more to come. A few weeks later, we sold the 2012 Audi for \$5,500.



Steve and Kimberly Sears hand over the keys to their Audi to Executive Director Clarissa Young and Executive Board member Bill Dixon.

Steve has taken an active interest in our mission. He is particularly supportive of Students-in-Training (SiT). In fact, Steve has donated several laptops and desktops to SIT, which our students refurbishes and gift to needy individuals and families in the community.

Steve also donated a new Kyocera TASKalfa 385ci copy machine to the Club with a retail value of \$11,000. We plan to raffle the new copier off in the fall. Please watch for more information about that event coming soon.

Sincere thanks to Steve and Kimberly for the innovative ways they have chosen to support the children in our community.



instagram.com/bgcpstatesville/



www.piedmontbgc.org



facebook.com/BGCPiedmont

SHARE OUR STORY



bjohnson@piedmontbgc.org

Volunteer opportunities can be tailored to meet your timeframe and skill set. High-school/college internships (for credit) are available. Contact Brady Johnson at

VOLUNTEER



bjohnson@piedmontbgc.org

Donate online at piedmontbgc.org, Contact Director of Development, Brady Johnson about gifts of stocks/securities, gifts of noncash assets, or planned giving opportunities at

GIVE

THANK YOU DONORS & SUPPORTERS



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE PIEDMONT**

Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont

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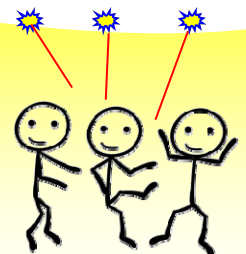
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