

Kids FIRST



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Youth of the Year have a "wow" factor

Erin Fischer was named 2010 Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (B&GCSM) on Feb. 27 at the Southfield Westin Hotel. Diamond Hall was the runner-up, while Brandon Harrison and Dominique Wylie tied for third place.

These winners, at age 17, were chosen from a field of 10 one from each Club with teen members. Winners were chosen for leadership qualities based on their essays and presentations made to a panel of judges, comprised of board members and community leaders.

Erin is a member of the Belleville Club and a student aide (part of our career development program).

She is president of the Keystone Club, a leadership club within the Club for youth ages 14 to 18. In this role, Erin helped organize a drive to collect personal hygiene products for the homeless.

Erin treasures her family her parents and little sister and her Club family. She thrives on helping younger members and spending time with friends there.

Erin plans to study psychology at the University of Michigan and then pursue a career in the medical field.

Diamond is a member of the Diehl Club in Detroit. She said, The Club has taught me the values of life, the importance of gaining a career and how important education is. It is my passion to help others because someone helped me when I was in need.

She was president of the Keystone Club and also worked on the Keystone/Torch Clubs leadership conference. She also mentored younger children and her peers at the Club through the SMART Moves program, which helps kids learn how to make wise choices about behavior and lifestyle. She plans to become either a registered nurse or pediatrician.

Brandon, of the Wilson Club in Auburn Hills, noted, The Club helped me in more ways than one. It has helped me to see what I couldn't see, to find in myself what I couldn't find. Brandon is fluent in Spanish and is studying other languages. He plans to attend Oakland



Len Krichko (left) and Tom Hoeg (right) proudly introduce the 2010 Youth of the Year (from left): Dominique Wylie, Brandon Harrison, Erin Fischer and Diamond Hall.

Community College and transfer to Oakland University to pursue a degree in education with a concentration in foreign languages. He was president of the Keystone Club.

Dominique, of the NFL/YET Boys & Girls Club at the Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus in
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Holden Club launches Project STARS for at-risk middle-school children

A new program known as Project STARS was unveiled on April 6 at an open house at the Holden Club in Detroit, where the program is being offered free of charge to middle-school kids (grades 6-8) to help them stay in school and rise above adversity. Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (B&GCSM) developed Project STARS (Strategically Targeting At Risk Students) and obtained funding for it from The Kresge Foundation and The Skillman Foundation.



Funders and leaders visited with kids enrolled in Project STARS at the Holden Club open house.

The open house drew donors, volunteers, parents and community leaders who live or work near the Holden Club in Detroit's Osborn community. It is one of six low-income neighborhoods targeted for special programs by The Skillman Foundation. B&GCSM President & CEO Len Krichko and Board Chair Tom Hoeg formally thanked the foundations represented by Andrew Gatewood from

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Summer programs hit their stride

By Len Krichko, President & CEO

Summer is a special time at our Clubs. We draw more members and guests by offering a range of activities, programs for learning and exploration, and field trips.

We operate Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and conduct our Youth Enrichment Activity (YEA) program from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. to help kids retain lessons learned during the school year.

The YEA program offers games that make kids think, self-directed activities, and a creative outlet. Many of the lessons are collaborative teens produce and perform skits, work on conflict resolution, and discuss current events. Younger kids work on math, science, reading and writing assignments to stay sharp.

We help kids advance to the next grade level. Often, YEA reinforces what they've learned in school. At other times, kids learn new things. The goal is to keep their minds active and inquisitive over the summer.

We also offer summer outings. Hundreds of kids at our Oakland County Clubs will enjoy a free day at Waterford Oaks Water Park, courtesy of the Oakland County Sheriff's Dept. and Oakland County Credit Union. They will get backpacks, food at the park and

admission. We need to provide the transportation.

The Tiny Tigers program has added a whole new ball game to several of our Detroit Clubs. Financial support from the Detroit Tigers Foundation provides for plenty of outdoor play and skill building in softball and baseball for boys and girls.

At the end of summer, 1,000 Club members will be guests at a Detroit Tigers baseball game.

We invite you to see our Clubs in action this summer. We welcome volunteers who can assist with reading or math skills or supervise a field trip. If your interest is in writing a check to support this program, we welcome that too. You can donate online (www.bgcsm.org), or send a check to our Administrative Office (address on back of this newsletter). Your involvement and support will make a difference to many more kids.



VISITOR'S PASS



See what all the fun is about

Visit any of our 13 Clubs this summer (Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open at 7:30 a.m. for YEA programs). Get a first-hand look at the activities, rooms and programs that nearly 26,000 kids enjoy on an annual basis. Come early to see how children retain more of what they've learned with our Youth Enrichment Activities (YEA) program.

Call a Club director today to schedule a visit or to volunteer at a Club. Whether you schedule a visit or simply drop in, you'll be glad you came.

A complete list of our Clubs, Club directors, addresses and contact information is on our website: www.bgcsm.org.

Make an appointment for yourself:

Club name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Director: _____

*Make a difference this summer.
Visit a Club.*

Holden Club ... *continued from page 1*

Kresge, and Ed Egnatios and Sharnita Johnson from Skillman for jointly contributing \$400,000 to the program.

Project STARS aims to improve academic outcomes, provide a positive place to go after school, inspire kids to perform community service, and recognize the kids' achievements. Middle-school youth who become Club members gather in a safe, supervised setting that caters to their needs and interests.

If these kids didn't come to the Club, they might be contributing to the neighborhood crime rate, said Club Director Jim Randels.

We're showing them a different way.

The funders will cover Club memberships for 300 youth for two years and provide comprehensive programming support that touches on all aspects of youth development. Some of the funds were used to create a technology, learning and social activity center at the Club, where kids can read, use computers, play games and make videos and music CDs.

Project STARS will enhance the Club's reputation as the most happening place to be in the neighborhood, according to STARS Project Director Chris Kyles. He has already recruited more than 100 new members and continues to seek additional members from local Detroit Public schools, charter schools, non-profit organizations and area churches.

Holden Club wins new learning center

The Holden Club will receive a new learning center with a grant of \$35,000 from the

Body by Milk national contest, promoted by NBA Cares. With the theme, "Drink Milk for a Change," teens and others had three months to vote for their favorite non-profit project online. The project at the Holden Club got 71% of the vote. The renovation will begin this summer.

Gold Medal Gymnast Shawn Johnson was the spokesperson for Project Shine representing the Holden Club renovation. She is expected to visit the Club in the coming months.

As an added bonus, Hewlett Packard will donate new computer equipment.



Friendship Club Breakfast draws financial support from community

Business owners, executives, community leaders and philanthropists shared their desire to help kids in need by pledging their support to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan at the Friendship Club Breakfast on March 26 at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The B&GCSM event, sponsored by Amerisure Insurance Co., raised \$100,000 to kick off the 2010 Annual Giving Campaign. Despite the tough economy in Detroit, new friends joined with our longtime supporters to ensure that the nearly 26,000 kids that we serve annually have a safe, positive place to go at each of our 13 Clubs, said B&GCSM President & CEO Len Krichko.

The Youth of the Year finalists made their first public appearance at the event, telling the audience what the Clubs mean to them. B&GCSM Youth of the Year winner Erin Fischer, of the Belleville Club, said, "I'm committed to the philosophy of the Clubs: they provide a safe haven, every child has a place on the team,

and there are positive ways to fill one's leisure time. Youth of the Year Runner-up Diamond Hall was joined by third-place winners Brandon Harrison and Dominique Wylie as participants in the program. (See related article on page 1.)

Allen showed the impact that the Clubs have on kids, many of whom live in neighborhoods where it's unsafe to walk alone.

"I've seen too many wasted lives, and too much lost potential," said Hervey Jenkins, Esq., a Wayne County prosecutor, board member and chair of the Alumni Association. He noted that the Clubs provide guidance for members through leadership programs and mentoring. What is provided at the Clubs helps avoid the cost to society of millions of dollars in services for juvenile delinquency.

His message was bolstered by Darrell Middleton, a senior vice president at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, who appealed to the 230 friends and associates in attendance to support the Clubs and provide a better future for youth. Board



Top, from left: Bennie White, youth advocate for Mayor Bing's office, met with B&GCSM President & CEO Len Krichko and David Dauch, president of American Axle.



Right: Glenn Farley, assistant vice president, Amerisure, visits with Club members Travis and Dominique.

Chair Tom Hoeg made an emotional appeal to reinforce the message and help raise more funds. The budget for 2010 is \$5.9 million and the majority is raised on an annual basis.

2010 Annual Giving Campaign needs your support

Each spring, we ask loyal supporters and new friends and associates to make a gift that keeps on giving. Our services help a child today and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. All donations—large or small—can make a difference in the life of a child. This year's goal of \$1.5 million will enable us to maintain our outstanding programs at the Clubs.

While we are doing more with less, it is now cutting into the meat of our organization and our next step will be more reductions and having to turn away kids in need—which goes against our mission, said President & CEO Len Krichko. Donors know that their contributions help sustain a strong organization that has put kids first for 84 years.

Ninety percent of our Club members graduate from high school and 95% pursue higher education. In a national poll of Club alumni, 85% said the Clubs helped them learn right from wrong, and 82% said the Clubs boosted their self-confidence. The majority—67%—said the Clubs helped them avoid difficulty with the law, and 57% said the Clubs saved their lives.

The cost of a one-year membership for a child is \$50, yet it costs the Club \$500 to provide the services, facilities, training and staff that go into each child's membership. Whether you can give \$10, \$50 or more—your contribution will make a difference for nearly 26,000 children in four counties.

Three easy ways to donate

- 1 **Online:** www.bgcsm.org. Go to donate button.
- 2 **By mail:** Please make your check payable to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, and send your contribution to B&GCSM Administrative Office, 26777 Halsted Rd., Ste. 100, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3560.
- 3 **By phone:** Please call Ann-Marie Morris at (248) 522-4418.

Community pitches in

Linda Reed, owner of Linda's Palace Barber & Beauty Shop, wanted to give back to the community in a way that would help the children of her customers and other young people on Detroit's northwest side. As the grandmother of two boys who attend the NFL-YET Boys & Girls Club at the Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus, Linda knew how beneficial the Club was in providing kids with a wide range of activities and opportunities. She set out a collection jar at her business and raised \$190 in a few months. She paired that collection with her own \$1,000 contribution and bought scholarship certificates for kids. To date, her fundraising efforts have paid for 23 scholarships and she plans to keep the drive going.

Club Director Jackie Banks said, "Parents who come in to enroll their kids with this scholarship are very grateful. One father had three sons, ages 6 to 13. He couldn't afford the \$150 annual cost for three kids, so this really helped them out."

Linda told me that kids need to have a safe place to go and she's pleased with what the Clubs are doing, Jackie added. "She wants to give back and this is her way of doing it. I hope to see more of this type of community fundraising because it works. People still care. They want to connect with people. This is what they are capable of."



ANNUAL GIVING

Women's Association luncheon raises record-breaking revenue

Women's Association members and guests came together on April 21 at the Michigan Design Center in Troy to celebrate their commitment to kids at Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (B&GCSM). They honored one of their members and raised a record-breaking amount from this event for B&GCSM programs.

The Matilda R. Wilson Award of Honor was presented to Denise Lutz, a volunteer, philanthropist and ambassador of charitable causes. The award honors commitment to youth in need, both at the Clubs and in the community.

Receiving an honor like this doesn't happen every day, Denise said. There were so many wonderful friends and acquaintances that I was almost overwhelmed by the richness of the experience.

Bob Lutz, retired vice chairman of General Motors Co., made a surprise visit to congratulate his wife on receiving the award. He was among 138 attendees at the event. Artwork created by kids from the Clubs decorated the room. A watercolor created by 15-year-old Monica, a member of the Wertz Club, was used on the invitations and presented to Denise as a framed gift.

Denise supports metropolitan Detroit organizations committed to improving the quality of life for the young and old; those with two legs as well as those with four, and both the healthy and in need.

Denise and her husband were the honorees at the Women's Association In Celebration Dinner in 2006. I was drawn in by women whom I respect and admire for their commitment to the organization, she said.

Since then, she has been a major donor and avid supporter. The Lutzes were honorary chairs of B&GCSM's private donor

reception at the North American International Auto Show in January.

Women's Association Chair Mary Nunez applauded the generosity of members and guests, who contributed through ticket sales, a raffle and donations, netting \$20,000—the most ever raised at the Women's Association luncheon.

An appeal made at the event by Linda Gillum, chair of the 2010 Scholarship Drive, raised \$5,200 to help pay annual membership dues for children whose families otherwise couldn't afford it. No child is ever turned away.

Nunez noted that Event Chair Lynn Middleton and Co-Chair Carole Larson Wendzel did a masterful job planning the event. Centerpieces were artfully arranged art supplies for the kids. Several Club members also attended the event. Lynn, wife of Board Member Darrell Middleton, said, The members were very generous in their support of the Clubs and the kids. The event came together beautifully.

In summing up the efforts of the Women's Association, Denise said, We will never have enough money to reach the number of children who need help. But, we can focus on maintaining the quality of the experience for each child we are able to help. It is powerful work to alter fate and change the future—one child at a time.



Clockwise, from left, seated: Denise Lutz, honoree; Mary Nunez, Women's Association chair; Carole Larson Wendzel, co-chair of luncheon; and Lynn Middleton, chair of luncheon.

Clubs celebrate community support

During National Boys & Girls Clubs Week, March 21-27, our Clubs paid tribute to the communities of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties for their support of our kids throughout the year. Special events were held for Club members, their parents, guests, community leaders, business owners, elected officials and volunteers.

Awards were presented to area businesses, corporations with a local presence, and individuals who made a difference (see list).

The Wilson Club enjoys community support from individuals and businesses and has close ties to the City of Auburn Hills. They do a lot for us, Club Director Mike Brown said. They've brought us items that we can use for programming, repaired our parking lot and assisted with various fundraisers.

The word is out and we've gained a lot of support in the community, said Frank Rigger, director of the Huron Valley Club in Ypsilanti. Students and professors from Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan have been really good to us.

Jill Covell, area director of the Romulus and Belleville Clubs, notes, Every community

organization and school is 100% on board with the Clubs and the positive influence we have with kids.

Thanks to all those who help make the Clubs **"The Positive Place for Kids!"**



| Club | Volunteer of the Year Award | Outstanding Community Service Award |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Belleville | Sylvia Trevorrow | Craig Atchinson, Atchinson Ford |
| Bloomer | Kristi Brown | Hope of Detroit |
| Diehl | Sam Abrams | Hewlett Packard-EDS |
| Fauver-Martin | Nasr Abdul – Mujeeb, Aaron Abdullah, Richard Wilson | Coca Cola of Highland Park |
| Holden | Victoria Adams | The Skillman Foundation The Kresge Foundation Detroit Tigers Foundation |
| Huron Valley | Joyce Anderson | Delux Rentals |
| Dauch Campus | Bobby White | Commissioner Alisha Bell |
| Orion/Oxford | Taste of the Town Committee | Dan Dendel |
| Romulus - Merriman | Karena Smith | Johnston Lithograph |
| Wilson | Michael Greenberg | Lil Erdeljan's Ya Ya group |
| Pontiac | Linda Barnes | AkzoNobel Coatings |
| Wertz | Peter Szyzkowski | Central Macomb Optimist Club |

Volunteer Bobby White and Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell were proud recipients of awards presented by Jackie Banks (center), director of the NFL-YET Boys & Girls Club/Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus, at a dinner held during National Boys & Girls Clubs Week.

Ray Jurczyk retires after 50 years of professional service

The historian, facilities manager, tough love motivator and operational linchpin of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan is retiring as Senior V.P. of Operations at the end of June 2010 after 50 years with the youth development organization.

From his vantage point—as a Club member in the 1950s, being a professional staff member for decades, and serving in Operations, Ray Jurczyk has seen it all: the good, the bad and the gray.

First off, the good is all that has been done for thousands of kids at the Clubs over the years through Ray's influence and hard work in launching programs, mentoring, turning ideas into reality, and maintaining the physical facilities.

The bad: while those times were few and far between, he admits to having looked at the wrong side of the barrel of a gun a few heart-stopping times. In one instance, a teen's irate mother came to a Club with a 38-revolver in her purse and threatened to shoot her son because of his bad behavior. Ray calmly talked her out of doing something that would land her in prison.

Then there's the gray area, where kids do attend the Clubs but can't overcome the pressure of the streets. Nothing works in a vacuum, Ray said. It takes the Clubs, the community, parents, a good education, job opportunities and more to make a difference for these kids.

A young club member

Ray grew up in the Clubs from age 10, walking nearly two miles to get there. He joined in 1953 as one of the original 100 members of the Guest Club when it was located on East Grand Blvd. on the border of Detroit and Hamtramck.

My father was a mailman. We were poor and didn't know it, Ray said. The Clubs introduced me to a whole different world: arts and crafts, woodworking, sports and a support system that helped me in high school.

Ray was greatly influenced by a janitor at the Club, Peter Oliver. Pete couldn't read or write so Ray would read him letters sent by Pete's relatives. A student at De La Salle High School in Detroit, Ray valued reading. He and Pete would also talk sports on Saturday afternoons and eat sandwiches made by Pete's wife Rose. Pete was a wonderful guy. We developed a great relationship that continued through my college years. He helped me understand how to treat people well.

Ray first started working at the Club canteen as a senior in high school. He joined the professional staff in September 1960 as a physical education instructor. He earned a B.S. degree from Wayne State University and is also a certified social worker.

Ray's Polish heritage and no-nonsense demeanor make him one tough guy. He's his own man, said Bloomer Club Director Gerald Lyon. He helped the Clubs make the transition to becoming co-ed Clubs in the 1970s. If there was a dispute, he was the go-to person to settle it. He dealt with challenges in an equitable way: listening to both sides, then finding a solution.

Hard work pays off

He never shied away from tough assignments. One of his first jobs was as program director of the Guest Club in Dearborn. At that time, the Club had been relocated to a former grocery store, which had to be renovated. Due to a tight budget, Ray and some of his associates removed the hard-worn linoleum tile from the floors to convert it to a suitable recreation area. He was told that he would become the Club director when his predecessor retired. However, Ray had to wrestle control over two long years. Ed Rommeck, then executive director, told him to persevere and create great programming, which he did.

Some of the best times were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Clubs in 1976. The organization set up a makeshift Club on the Kern block and live broadcasts were conducted by

Channel 7's Kelly & Co. and several radio stations. Ed Rommeck and John Burdakin, emeritus board director and retired president of Grand Trunk Railroad, arranged for some 500 Club members to ride the railroad from Detroit to Pontiac in celebration. Ray helped stage these events and also took great delight in what the anniversary represented: putting kids first.

Those were the days

In a partnership with the Detroit Tigers organization in the 1980s, the Clubs received payment for handing out special promotion give-aways (bats, hats, etc.) on game days to fans at the old Tiger Stadium on Michigan Ave. For three years, Ray had the task of finding 65 volunteers needed nearly every summer weekend to man 12 entrances; he would often enlist his Club directors and retirees to help out. That task cemented our long-term relationship with the Tigers, he said.

Ray also had a hand in coordinating unique summer programs. One of the most successful was The Going Thing, a Club on wheels that was converted from a panel truck donated by John Fauver, emeritus board director. This unusual vehicle would park for a week at a time on neighborhood streets in southwest Detroit. Summertime activities pack some great memories for alumni, Ray noted.

Ray has earned the admiration of many, yet doesn't like the limelight. He points to an outstanding staff whose dedication and commitment is second to none and continues to help us make a real difference.

Ray is the most selfless person I've ever met, said Board Chair Tom Hoeg. People like Ray give you hope. He has a passion for helping children and teens.

John James, immediate past board chair, noted that Ray was key in making the transition from five Clubs in the mid 1980s—four in Detroit and one in Highland Park—to 13 Clubs spread throughout a four-county region. He dedicated his life to his family and the Clubs, James said. There is nothing and no one that Ray does not know up close and personal at the Clubs. He is irreplaceable.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with Ray for the past 13 years, said President & CEO Len Krichko. During Ray's tenure, the organization has been recognized for many achievements and has reached many milestones. On behalf of the entire organization, we thank Ray for 50 great years of service to youth!

Ray and his wife Jan have five children and nine grandchildren. He is looking forward to spending time with his family as well as golfing, fishing and attending ball games.



Ray Jurczyk

Ray contributed much to Boys & Girls Clubs locally, regionally and nationally. In 2007, he was elected as a national board member of The Professional Association (TPA) of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). He received the 2009 Herman S. Prescott Award for excellence in assisting minorities and women in the advancement of careers within the Boys & Girls Clubs Movement. He also received the Tom Burt Pacesetter Award from the BGCA Midwest Region. He has chaired the TPA Great Lakes Chapter for Michigan, and served on BGCA national task forces and program advisory committees, Midwest Regional committees, and the Michigan Area Council.

