

# GREAT futures



## NFL's Best Visits Club Members

**A** boisterous crowd of 500 Club members hollered with abandon when Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers walked on-stage in August at the Boys & Girls Club of Menasha for a special appearance. Aaron told the kids he too was a Boys & Girls Club member when he was young and loved every minute of his Club experience. Aaron took questions from the kids for nearly an hour, ranging from the light hearted to the serious. Aaron spoke

about rising above adversity, what it means to be a member of a team, and what commitment to excellence is all about. Above all, Aaron's visit reminded Club members they have value and they too can be leaders and difference makers.

Bergstrom Automotive made this extraordinary day possible with added support given by Miron Construction and the Menasha Joint School District.

Since 1998, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley has been a vital part of the fabric of the communities it serves - shaping, changing, and saving lives in service to young people and their families. As our organization approaches its 20th anniversary, it looks to become even more transformational at a time when our kids and our communities most need us to do so.



**We believe that all children deserve an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.**

Unfortunately, here in the Fox Cities, there are over 12,500 K-12th grade students living in low-income homes, a 48% increase in the past 10 years. Limited incomes cut children off from opportunity, most importantly the opportunity to reach their full potential.

At the Boys & Girls Club, we strive to offer an Optimal Club Experience that is often life changing. Young people who receive an Optimal Club Experience are more likely to be on track to graduate from high school on time, to avoid drugs and alcohol, and to handle conflict in positive ways.

As we look to the future, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure that we continue to evolve to meet kids' needs. We must do everything possible to ensure our young people have opportunities outside of school and home that promote their healthy development and enable them to live a happy, productive, caring life as adults.

Greg Lemke-Rochon  
Chief Executive Officer

**Great Futures Start HERE.**

## Using Art to Teach Life Skills



Thanks to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, the Summer of Service program added a new element of a community mural project, offering youth an opportunity to create art that can be enjoyed by the public. Under the direction of local artist, Irineo Medina, a team of youth created a mural at Appleton Trophy and Engraving during three rainy days in August. The mural itself was designed to express a celebration of diversity in our community and promote a message of unity.

Research shows that increasing access to arts programs offers opportunities for children and youth to learn new skills, expand their horizons and develop a sense of self, well-being and belonging. These traits are associated with increased academic achievement and increased community engagement. Participating in the public art piece allowed sometimes marginalized and disengaged youth to feel that they are a part of something bigger in our community. We are thrilled to see our students take pride in contributing to the art piece, particularly this image and what it represents.

## Oshkosh Corporation Celebration Features Generosity



The Oshkosh Corporation's 100th Anniversary Celebration in July featured gifts of \$90,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley and the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh from the Oshkosh Corporation Foundation. Wilson Jones, President and CEO of Oshkosh Corporation and member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley Board of Directors, unveiled two giant checks in a surprise to the Clubs and to the thousands in attendance at the festivities.

"Oshkosh Corporation is excited to support our Boys & Girls Clubs," said Wilson Jones. "By working together with our friends and partners, in shared commitment to excellence on behalf of our community's children, we can continue to make Great Futures possible for all youth, especially those who need us most."



The Runaway & Homeless Youth Services Team (from left): Austyn Boothe, Tim Bohrer, Daniel Rowan, Shana Pike, Kylie Morris

## Help for Homeless and Runaway Youth

“In the Fox Cities, on average, 244 youth are reported as runaways each year and hundreds more are homeless,” says Tim Bohrer, Director of the Boys & Girls Club’s 24-hour Runaway & Homeless Youth Services. “Our team works around-the-clock to make sure the increasing number of kids and families in crisis in our communities can connect with someone who cares and can help.” In addition to crisis intervention and on-going case management services, program staff make sure young people have ready access to help by reaching out to thousands in area schools and during street outreach activities.

November is National Runaway Prevention Month and the Boys & Girls Club is partnering with the National Runaway Safeline (1-800-RUNAWAY) to continue to bring awareness to youth, parents, families, and others about how to prevent runaway incidents and how to get help.



## Ultimate Teen Marketing Moguls

The “Ultimate Teen Marketing Moguls” from The CLUB Teen Center of Appleton learned how to create marketing strategies and activities to help recruit new members. These enterprising young people hosted a Summer Open House, developed “Bring-A-Friend” Fridays, learned about social media safety, and learned how to network within their peer groups. The experience helped lay the foundation for future careers in the marketing world.

# Making Great Futures Possible

More than 15 Boys & Girls Club alumni are now pursuing post-secondary educations in part because support from the Robert and Lynne Keller Educational Assistance Fund has made it possible. The fund helps Club alumni with tuition expenses but, more importantly, is used to cover other expenses, such as rent, school supplies, and computers, that traditional scholarships often do not cover.

Grant recipients are pursuing careers in art and graphic design, cosmetology, early childhood education, and computer arts among others. Several are working towards human service careers and state they want to “give back,” and “help the community as much as it has me.”

Anna is one of the funds’ beneficiaries. Anna was a long-term Club member, grew up in an eight-person household, and her responsibilities were often well beyond her years. Despite all of that, she also found time to give back by volunteering with younger Club members while she herself was in high school. As a college student now, Anna says...

“...you have to focus on your academics and on the financial aspects of school too. Thankfully, this assistance helped lift some weight off my shoulders and I can focus on graduating with a degree in social work.”





## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE FOX VALLEY

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### Our Mission

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

## Volunteers Make a Difference

Each year over 400 volunteers help us make a lasting difference in kids' lives. They help prepare meals, teach dance classes, put on music performances, and more. They help guide and nurture our Club members and give them one more caring adult in their life, something there can never be enough of!

We are hoping to add to this group of wonderful people and are especially seeking volunteers for these programs:

- **Literacy Tutoring** – Help Club members from Kindergarten through 3rd grade gain important reading skills.
- **MegaBites** – Help kids become excited about information technology! Currently offered at six Club locations, MegaBites is computer-science educational partnership with Fox Valley Technical College and the Appleton Area School District. We need volunteers with experience in coding, HTML, computer repair, and other IT fields.
- **Mentoring** - Mentors serve as positive role models and show kids the care and support they need to grow and thrive. Mentoring opportunities are available at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Appleton and of Menasha.



Contact Katie Hickey, Volunteer Coordinator, at 920.750.5834 or [khickey@bgclubfoxvalley.org](mailto:khickey@bgclubfoxvalley.org) for more information.

**“MegaBites is fun because I’ve always wanted to be an engineer and now I’m working with a robot and using the tablet to make it move.”**

*- Peyton, Age 8*



## Double Your Gift!

Three generous families will match gifts received through December 31, 2017 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley up to \$100,000!

Join us in helping change lives by giving kids, especially those who need us most, a safe place to learn and grow, supportive relationships with caring mentors, and an incredible variety of enriching programs, experiences and activities. **Visit [www.bgclubfoxvalley.org/donate](http://www.bgclubfoxvalley.org/donate) today.** Together, we can build great futures!