



GREAT futures



Vex Robotics Team Becomes State Champions

Congratulations to Boys & Girls Club of Menasha's Vex Robotics team, the Menasha Electrobots, for taking first place at the Vex Robotics State Championship in Milwaukee. They also received the coveted Judge's Award, an honor bestowed on teams deserving of special recognition for exemplary effort, perseverance, and team accomplishments throughout the entire season.



Travis Thor 2017-2018 Youth of the Year

"At age six, I was bullied. I did not look or speak like other kids in school. I was four feet four inches tall, weighed 40 pounds, and had a terrible and noticeable stutter. I was the kid that did not fit in with anyone.

I had many family difficulties as well, and at age 13 I was kicked out of my home after I found the courage to come out as gay. I was unprepared to deal with being cast out at that age by my family and friends and I was lost. I had nothing. However, the Boys & Girls Club gave me a place of safety, love, and acceptance. Boys & Girls Club staff greeted me with open arms, lifted me up, and made sure I could become the strongest version of me.

The Boys & Girls Club has taught me great resiliency, self-confidence, and gratitude. Resiliency for when times are hard, knowing I have the strength to get through. Self-confidence as I learn to accept and take care of myself, and gratitude for learning to put others before myself. Today, I volunteer over 100 hours each year, showing me

that giving without expecting anything in return is always the best way to help my community and to make me happy."

Congratulations to Travis Thor, the Boys & Girls Club's 2017-2018 Youth of the Year. An accomplished young man, Travis has more than 10 years' experience as a Boys & Girls Club member. He is a junior at the Renaissance School for the Arts in Appleton, excelling in a myriad of classes. In addition to his studies, Travis gives many hours of volunteer tutoring and mentoring at the Boys & Girls Club of Wilson Middle School and other non-profits, and takes part in many school clubs, athletics, and arts afterschool programs. In March, Travis traveled to Green Bay to attend the State Youth of the Year competition, placing in the top three.

"I can show the younger generation that no matter who you are and whatever you want to be, you can always do it - just by being you. This realization would have never come to me without the help and support of the Boys & Girls Club."

A Place to Become

Every young person deserves a safe place. A place where people care. A place to belong, and a place to grow, to discover and to thrive.

2018 marks twenty years since our Boys & Girls Club first opened its doors, doors that opened into this kind of place. We want this

community, we want you, to know how very grateful we are for your help, your trust, and for believing as we do – that all young people deserve an equal chance

to reach their full potential. Above all else, our first twenty years have convinced us that the Boys & Girls Club Experience can have a life-changing impact on kids, especially those who need us most.

For the tens of thousands of children we've served in our first two decades, being a part of the Club has meant being surrounded by friends and mentors, sharpening skills and discovering new pursuits, it has meant feeling heard and supported in every way, and it has meant knowing there is a team of caring youth development experts, people who believe in you, at your side.

Because there are so many who care and have done so much, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley has grown to now provide safe spaces where over 1,100 children and young adults each day spend time between school and home. Our caring and dedicated team members excel at inspiring and empowering young people, and this community has excelled at giving them the opportunity to do so. Our first twenty years gives us hope that our next twenty years can and will be even better so that one day we can say, without reservation, the Fox Valley is a great place for ALL kids to grow.

Greg Lemke-Rochon
Chief Executive Officer

ALL STARS Dance and Step National Finalists

Winning choreography, performance, and sparkling enthusiasm helped Boys & Girls Club of Menasha members become finalists in the top 10 in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's ALL STARS Dance and Step National Video Competition. Way to go, girls!



Boys & Girls Club of Appleton member Emily (right) with her mentor, Brooke (left)

Emily & Brooke

“When we first met, I wanted to make sure Emily knew she could count on seeing me every week to give her something to look forward to. After our first couple of mentoring sessions together, I noticed we both like to plan. Some of the activities we have completed are the following: making holiday cookies, painting our nails, playing board games, cooking healthy meals, and arts and crafts. I look forward to continuing my mentoring relationship with Emily; my goal is to be her mentor until she graduates high school. I feel confident we will continue to not only be mentors to one another, but also build a friendship.”

– Great Futures Mentor, Brooke Maguire

Reading to Learn

Dr. Sandra Mills is passionate about education. Her gift from the Dr. Sandra Mills Foundation: Students Forward last fall helped kick off the Club's new Page Turners Literacy Tutoring program at five Boys & Girls Club school sites. The goal: increase third grade reading ability for students at the bottom 20 percent of reading proficiency.

By fourth grade, students who cannot read proficiently are on the high school dropout track. The ability to read by the end of third grade is essential to increasing the number of children who succeed academically, graduate on time, and do well in life and the workforce.

Students in the Page Turners program meet weekly with certified teacher and volunteer tutors who cooperate with the student's classroom teachers. The weekly meetings with caring adult tutors create strong bonds increasing the program's impact as well.



Dr. Sandra Mills



Amirah, age 6 (right) with Page Turners Literacy Tutor, Jessica Buettner (left)

I Love the Boys & Girls Club



Club member Logan, age 8, expressed his appreciation for the healthy food offered at the Club of Appleton in a letter to Director, Ross Mortensen, and other members of the Club's staff.

Dear Staff, My family thanks You guys for taking care OF me while my mom and dad work. I thank you for all the hard work to make Boys and girls Club better and funner and safer. Thats why we Love Borahogir Club, that you take care of me. and great food and most OF all the FUN! from Logan Boys and girls club cat

What Counts

98%



of Club members are on grade level for their age

54%



of Club members engage in volunteerism at least once per month

71%



of Club members consume two or more fruit servings daily



Career Launch Goes to College

Fox Valley Technical College offers local opportunities for Club members to explore many different careers. Touring the FVTC Public Safety Training Center showed real-life scenarios in fire-fighting, law enforcement, and paramedic training. In the Health Sciences facilities, Club members learned about the impact of shaken baby syndrome and became forensics technicians during a “virtual” dissection demonstration. Careers in Information Technology, manufacturing, and culinary arts are just a few of the other hands-on experiences available for career exploration at this campus.



Shooting Stars

The new Shooting Stars cheer and dance team from the Club of Appleton made their debut at the 2017-2018 Youth of the Year Celebration. Krista Frenz, the Club's Fine Arts & STEM Coordinator, helped the Shooting Stars with special choreography to introduce each Youth of the Year Candidate and to perform “Under the Sea” from Disney's “The Little Mermaid.” Team members remarked that being part of the team and performing for the audience was a new and exhilarating experience.



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.



Power Hour

Power Hour, the Boys & Girls Clubs' largest academic support program, helps keep kids on track in school. On average, more than 900 Club members get help daily at the Club's nine locations. Clayton, a Club member since kindergarten, attends the Boys & Girls Club of Kaleidoscope Academy. Since last fall, Clayton

has really improved his grades through daily Power Hour activities and credits the Club with giving him the confidence and skills to stay motivated with his school work.

"It's hard to pick a favorite class now. Band, math, science, humanities, I like them all."

- Clayton W., age 11

Vintage IN THE VALLEY

On Saturday, March 3rd, 450 people invested more than \$375,000 in our community's future through Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley's signature event, Vintage in the Valley. Held at the new Fox Cities Exhibition Center, guests enjoyed wonderful food, wine, and company and enjoyed a program showcasing the accomplishments and talents of Club members.

