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David Williams, Allison Cleveland and Warren Norman of Kiwanis Club of Rock Hill at the "Help Them Play" event

Newsletter contributions and edits by:
Kathy Ziegler and Anne Brady Moore



Did You Know?

- Boys & Girls Clubs of York County Club members are required to **finish** their homework at the Club everyday.
- Each afternoon at the Club features a structured lesson in one of our Five Core Areas: **Character & Leadership; Health & Life Skills; The Arts; Sports, Fitness & Recreation; and Education & Career Development.**
- The Boys & Girls Club serves **ALL** children of all races, religions, ethnic cultures, and economic backgrounds.
- We are a **youth development organization**, not a day care or babysitting service, with the goal of educating and mentoring children so that they become responsible, caring and productive citizens.

The Spotlight

This section is devoted to companies and organizations, which have hosted charitable events or drives that directly benefit BGCYC.

Citigroup: Employees at Citigroup made individual donations totaling \$940 in order to provide T-shirts and school supplies for our Emmett Scott Club.

Kiwanis Club of Rock Hill: Organized the "Help Them Play" BBQ event at the Magnolia Room in Rock Hill on Thursday, Aug. 16th and raised \$8,500 for the Northside Club Playground. This is one of a series of events to reach their goal of \$30,000.

Handy Dandy/Garage Detail (The Meester Family): Hosted a Labor Day weekend Hot Dog Sale. Lowes Foods graciously donated the food and the event was held in front of their location in Fort Mill. The money raised, approximately \$500, will benefit the Banks Street Club in Fort Mill.

"As most people know, there is strength in numbers. In this case, the Boys & Girls Clubs of York County is in need of continual funding. Alone they face a barrier, but by forming teams with companies (such as ours) and community groups, these barriers soon become stairs. These stairs then become our pathway toward a greater tomorrow. Strength in numbers is and always will hold true, whether it's a football team or a non-profit organization. Teaming up will always make obstacles smaller and easier. Thank you on behalf of our companies for allowing us to serve our community."

Douglas R. Meester COO: Handy Dandy and Garage Detail



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Chief Volunteer Officer*

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*Vice President,
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Emma Neely
Harold Shapiro
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Nelson Wright

Club Experience Assists Teen in Realizing College Dreams

Kathy Ziegler, Director of Operations

THE CLUB

If you walked into C², The Club at The Connection, at any time of day this summer, you would have encountered Bobby Douglas, 18, a graduate of Northwestern High School, mentoring or educating younger teen campers. That's because Bobby, who first began attending C² in March 2007, adjusted his Carowinds work schedule for the summer so that he could be at the club for the full 11-hours a day, 5-days a week schedule to earn hours toward the CLUBService Boys & Girls Club program. This program provides college funds to members and alumni ages 17-24 who serve their clubs and community for a minimum of 900 hours in the areas of public safety, membership development, youth mentoring and educational support. Bobby was also a member of the C² Keystone Club, which is a chartered leadership and service club for members ages 14-18.

Throughout the summer, Bobby acted as a mentor/supervisor and staff assistant. Additionally, he taught lessons in the Gang Awareness, SmartMoves and Money Matters programs, where he shared many of his past experiences with the teens. Serving in this capacity helped Bobby "find himself" and realize his passion - working with kids and helping people. He felt that each child had a different story and taught him something. For example, during a lesson he taught, the kids helped him realize that some of the friends he hung out with were a negative influence in his life. He believes that he truly discovered the benefits of living a positive life through this summer experience.

A major part of his plan to live a positive life will be realized this fall when he attends Alabama State University. At this point, his primary goal is to "study hard". He would like to major in the areas of business and youth development. Thanks to assistance from Wardell Rouse, Director of Teen Services at C², Bobby will be able to continue earning his CLUBService hours as a Health/PE staff member at the Chisholm Boys & Girls Club in Birmingham, AL.

When asked what he would like the community to know about the Boys & Girls Club, Bobby said, "The Club is a place you can call home. There's never a dull moment and you're always having fun. It makes you feel better spiritually. You always go home happy." C² is sponsored jointly by West End Baptist Church of Rock Hill and serves area teens Monday thru Friday, 4pm to 8pm.



C² kids celebrate and bid farewell at Bobby's going away party.



Mr. Wardell Rouse (right) shakes hands with Bobby Douglas and congratulates Bobby on his last day at the Club.

Our Administrative Staff:



Karen Blankenship
Executive Director/CPO
kblankenship@bgcyc.org



Kathy Ziegler
Director of Operations
kziegler@bgcyc.org



Anne Brady Moore
Director of Resource
Development
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Chris Rushing
Director of Finance
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Letter from our Executive Director/CPO:

We are off to a great start with the beginning of the 2007- 2008 school year and this inaugural newsletter publication! Thanks to dedicated board members, our youth development staff and committed volunteers, our Clubs continue to provide students, ages 6-18, with meaningful programs, positive mentor experiences and an array of activities in our five core program areas. Each program or activity we offer in our structured, yet flexible after school and summer offerings includes Character & Leadership Development; Health & Life Skills; The Arts; Sports, Fitness & Recreation; Education & Career Development. Helping each child achieve academic success is one of our most crucial areas of focus. Education and lifelong learning are integral elements of our daily teaching.

As we prepare to kick-off our annual campaign this fall, IT JUST TAKES ONE, please examine your charitable giving budget and remember the children of York County. It only takes ONE person to influence the life of a child and to make a difference. Your contributions are 100% tax deductible.

Strong community partnerships continue to allow our Clubs to thrive. Some of these include the City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill School District Three, Fort Mill School District, United Way of York County, Kiwanis Club of Rock Hill, Fort Mill Rotary Club and Winthrop University, just to name a few. If you are interested in becoming our newest partner or volunteering in our Clubs, please contact us at 324-7920 or kblankenship@bgcyc.org. Again, please remember the youth of York County by offering us your support!

For our kids,

Karen Blankenship, Executive Director/CPO

Special Thanks

Individuals who have made notable donations including, but not limited to, time, items and money:

Chris Falatok - Charitable donation

Matt Walrath, Citigroup - At Banks Street:

arranged for air conditioner repair, assisted in painting Teen Room, fixed toilet, obtained discount/arrangement for waxing of the floors

Hardin Services Pest Control - At Banks Street: donated initial service

White Office Furniture - New front desk at Northside Club

David Brown/Second Harvest Food Bank & Borders Books Charlotte) - New books donation

The Berry Family- At Northside Club, donated a couch for the program room.

Northside Club kids relax on their new couch.



Our Club kids thank you!

Matt Walrath looks at his personalized thank you card made by the Banks Street Club kids.



*Boys & Girls Clubs of
York County
Welcomes New Staff
Members*

Anne Brady Moore joined our team in July 2007 as Director of Resource Development. She is a graduate of Spartanburg Day School and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication from Radford University. Her passion is helping others and giving back to the community. She is engaged to Jeff Carlson of Charlotte, NC, and plans to be married 4/26/08. Anne Brady brings experience from working and volunteering with other non-profits to the BGCYC. She is so excited to join our administrative staff. Please join us in welcoming her to our team.

Sara Hunt joined the organization as Unit Director of the Northside Unit in May of 2007. While finishing her undergraduate degree in Columbia, she worked for the BGCYC as a part-time program specialist and later at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands' Dent Middle School Unit. Sara attended Northwestern High School and the University of South Carolina, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Experimental Psychology. She is currently enrolled in Winthrop's Master of Social Work program. Sara is currently hard at work unpacking and decorating her new house after her move from Columbia earlier this summer. She is enjoying being back in Rock Hill and is thrilled to be a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of York County.

What is the value of \$100 to us?

Anne Brady Moore, Director of Resource Development

When I think about money, I hear my grandmother in my ear saying, "Never underestimate the value of a dollar". When it comes to charitable giving each dollar truly is stretched in order to maximize the benefit...in our case, for the kids. When we started breaking down what \$100 does for our organization, I was shocked! Who knew that \$100 could have such a strong impact on an organization? The value of giving has been instilled in me since youth, but this exercise truly made me appreciate what each dollar actually does. Here's what a \$100 donation can do for the Boys & Girls Clubs of York County:

- pay for a part-time staff member for 3.5 days
- pay for a child to attend the Club for one month
- purchase 8 educational board games
- provide a healthy snack for 33 children for one day
- pay the registration fee for one, teen Keystone member to attend the 2007 Southeast Regional Keystone Conference in Charlotte in November 2007.



A Northside Club member enjoys a s'more on a camping themed fun Friday!

2007-2008 After School Enrollment

The Boys & Girls Clubs of York County is committed to providing services to as many families as possible by having a sliding scale for our weekly programming fees. For daily after school care at our three elementary-aged clubs (M-F, 2-6pm), our fees are only \$10/week for those qualifying for free lunch; \$20/week for reduced lunch; or \$30/week for regular lunch. For the after school program at our teen center, The Club at The Connection (M-F, 4-8pm) we charge only a one-time \$15 membership fee per year. Our Clubs maintain a 1:15 ratio. Youth are welcome to join at any time during the year.



Rock climbing helps teach the kids trust and teamwork.



At the Clubs, our staff provides that extra homework help and daily encouragement!



The BGCYC has recently begun the FundingFactory Recycling fundraiser to recycle collected cartridges and cell phones. The program features free collection boxes and shipping, online accounting and a business component that enables companies and individuals to collect ink or toner cartridges and cell phones in support of our efforts. Items will be collected at the administrative office or at any of our Clubs. It's simple, convenient and completely free of cost to you! Please visit www.fundingfactory.com or contact Kathy Ziegler, Director of Operations, @ 324-7920 for more information on how to get started!

Unit Directors:



Roxxie Thomas
Emmett Scott Club
801 Crawford Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-366-2500
rthomas@bgcyc.org



Wardell Rouse
Director of Teen
Services
C², The Club at
The Connection
2538 West Main Street
Rock Hill, SC 29732
803-327-3588
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Club News:

Emmett Scott

At Emmett Scott this summer, our kids had a great time. We did lots of arts and crafts including tie dying tee shirts. Our kids had a chance to cool off in the swimming pool and slide on the Slip and Slide. We had game room tournaments that included Mancala, Connect Four, Checkers, UNO and 9 ball Pool. The kids enjoyed all the fieldtrips, especially the trip to the planetarium and museum in Gastonia. The last week of camp was our spirit week where the kids got to wear mixed matched shoes and participate in Hat Day, Sports Day, Blue Day and Twin Day. We topped the week off with a popular Pajama Jam. The kids really bonded with the staff and each other. We hope that everyone made a friend for life.

We have big plans educational plans at Emmett Scott this year for our after school program. We plan to target each child's individual educational needs to help improve homework grades and raise their test scores. We are happy to have many Winthrop volunteers this fall to help us achieve this goal. We are also planning on doing lots of exciting special events for the kids such as field day, Fall Festival, Halloween Carnival and other "cool" things.

-Roxxie Thomas

C² (The Club at The Connection):

This past summer we offered exciting, meaningful and fun programs for teens. Our programs featured kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, swimming, team building activities and field trips. Our members had a chance to rub elbows and play football with the Carolina Panthers thanks to Ms. Rose Cummings from SunCom. Our teens also learned the value of hard work by performing various community service projects such as cleaning out closets and mentoring kids at Northside and Emmett Scott Clubs. Most importantly, we equipped our teens with valuable information on how to handle finances, become a good leader and how to resist gangs.

Our goals for the 2007-2008 after school program include continuing to address relevant teen issues such as peer pressure, dating and relationships, teen pregnancy, gangs and how to handle money. We are looking forward to continuing and expanding our Keystone, Torch Club, Youth of the Month and Youth of the Year programs. We are also planning to start a Higher Education Program in conjunction with our ClubService Program, where we will provide teens with assistance in both planning and paying for their future educational goals beyond high school. It's going to be a great year!

-Wardell Rouse



Emmett Scott kids outside the Schiele Museum in Gastonia



Hanging out before lunch



Showing off some dance moves at the Pajama jam



C² kids playing football with the Carolina Panthers



Our Youth of the Year (left) at the statewide recognition event



C² is filled with smiles daily!

Unit Directors:



Cristina d'Erizans
Banks Street Club
513 Banks Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715
803-547-1978
cderizans@bgcyc.org



Sara Hunt
Northside Club
900 Annafrel Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-324-3059
shunt@bgcyc.org

Banks Street

Wow! It was a great summer at the Banks Street Boys & Girls Club experiencing so many new things! We loved the cooking unit, especially the part where we got to eat all the yummy food we made. Making kites was fun, too! This activity was very challenging, but seeing them fly was worth the hard work. The York County Public Library Bookmobile came and visited us weekly. We all checked out books to read while we cooled down from playing group games in the gym! Mancala became the new favorite game of the summer. We played it MANY times each day. We even crowned a Mancala champion after our week long Mancala tournament! We worked hard at doing nice things for each other and for our Club with our "Lucky Straws" incentive chart. We had "Lucky Straw" parties where we celebrated even the smallest successes. We went to visit the animals at the Lazy-5-Ranch with our Club friends from Northside and Emmett Scott. Our favorites were the giraffes. We really did have an amazing summer and made great friends. Summer camp helped us grow and realize a little bit more of our potential! We hope to continue deepening these relationships throughout the school year.

We are excited about our after school program! We have some great programs planned including *Healthy Habits*, a national program from Boys & Girls Clubs of America that deals with nutrition and healthy food choices. We are also running a program written by Tiger and Earl Woods called "Start Something" that encourages children to dream. Another BGCA national program that we are running is *Youth for Unity*. It encourages tolerance and understanding of diversity. We are committed to completing homework daily and hope to see improvements in academic achievements. We will also be welcoming some Winthrop student volunteers who will bring some new ideas! We're looking forward to a great year!

- Cristina d'Erizans



Playing Mancala, our favorite pastime



We work hard to earn "Lucky Straws."



Cooling off with good books from the Bookmobile

Northside

What a summer we had at the Northside Boys & Girls Club! Rock climbing, slip and sliding, scrap booking, Karaoke dance parties, and funky dress up days were just a few of the fun activities that took place during summer camp. In addition, the Colgate bus visited our Club. We participated in the York County Library's "Get A Clue" reading program. We even got to go on several field trips including bowling, seeing the *The Lion King* and the touring the Schiele Museum planetarium. Celebrating the Fourth of July with water balloons, hot dogs and ice cream was a blast! We ended our summer with a talent show filled with singing, dancing and an awards ceremony! The friends gained and the memories made were enough to last a lifetime here at the Northside Boys & Girls Club!

After a great end to our summer camp, our after school program is kicking off to a great start! We are hard at work helping with homework and participating in fun and educational programs such as *Healthy Habits* and *Youth for Unity*. We are busy planning themed activities for our Fun Fridays here at the Club, such as pajama dress up and bring your own toys days. In addition to our weekly festivities, we will have a party each month to celebrate birthdays and pick a Club member as our Youth of the Month. We are really looking forward to a school year full of exciting activities and opportunities here at the Northside Boys & Girls Club.

-Sara Hunt



Bowling fun for the Northside Girls



The Colgate bus visits us.



The giraffes were the favorite at Lazy-5 Ranch!

Want to help? Spread the word of our current needs...

Club Wish Lists

Contact Us:

Physical address of the
Administrative Offices:
217 Orange Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Mailing address for all
Clubs and the Admin.
Offices: P.O. Box 226,
Rock Hill, SC 29731

803-324-7920 (phone)
803-324-7960 (fax)
www.bgcyc.org

*Looking for a gift
idea this holiday
season? Consider
making a donation
in honor or in
memory of someone
special! Contact
abmoore@bgcyc.org*

Save the Date!

Steak and Stake

*Annual Fundraising
Dinner*

*The Magnolia Room,
Rock Hill*

April 3, 2008

National Boys & Girls
Club Week

March 30 - April 5,
2008

All 4 clubs need the following items:

Soft furniture items:

Examples: Beanbags, Big pillows, chairs

Outdoor games:

Examples: Volleyball set, jump ropes,
sidewalk chalk, playground balls

Educational board games:

Examples: Mancala, Educational puzzles,
Memory, Lego's, Chess/Checkers

School supplies

Computers

Video camera

Technology servicing

Healthy snack items

Books (6-18 years)

Area rugs

G-rated movies (DVD or VHS)

Bank Street Club Needs (Fort Mill):

Cleaning supplies

6'X4' Bulletin Board

TV

Helmets for scooters

Educational manipulatives:

Play money, counting blocks, Brain Quest flash cards

Northside Club Needs (Rock Hill):

Building blocks

Encyclopedia set (within last 5 yrs)

Bumper pool table

Pool sticks

Magnetic board

Printer

Emmett Scott Needs (Rock Hill):

Shelves for movies and books

Fish tank

TV with stand

C² - The Club at The Connection (Rock Hill):

Laptop

Outdoor stationary Basketball goal and Volleyball

Gift Cards: for recognitions of youth

Instruments such as guitars, drum set, keyboard, etc.

Pool cues or tips for cue

Karaoke music

Help us with these Special Projects:

A playground (Fort Mill)

Landscaping (Fort Mill and Northside)

Remodeling of the 4 Program Rooms (Fort Mill)

Decorate and Outfit Study Hall/Lounge Room (C²)



