



OPPORTUNITIES

Spring 2010

2400 N. Opportunity Drive • Wichita, KS 67219 • Phone: 316.201.1890 • Fax: 316.687.5459 • www.bgcscck.org

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

Outstanding Wichita Teen Wins Local Youth of the Year Honor Back to Back Years

Cierra Smith is a true example of an extraordinary young woman. At age 17, she was named the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas 2010 Youth of the Year and received \$500 from the George Fahnestock Memorial Youth of the Year Scholarship. She was also selected to compete against other Boys & Girls Club members for the Kansas Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation. This is the second year in a row that Smith has won the local competition. Maurissa Walker and Kiana Knowland were the other Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas finalists.

As the Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas, Smith is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. This program was founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of Reader's Digest.

Smith is the daughter of Aritha Smith. She is a junior at Northeast Magnet High School

where she maintains a 3.0 grade point average. She enjoys dancing in the Boys & Girls Club Dance Company and has been a member since she was five years old. She would like to attend Spellman College in Atlanta, GA or Harvard and become a lawyer.

"Cierra has been a terrific leader at the club and I am most pleased to have her be the face of the club," said Jeff Jacobs, chief professional officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas.

The winner at state will compete for the title of Southwest Region Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C., in September 2010 to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

Top Photo: Cierra Smith

Bottom Photo from Left to Right: Maurissa Walker, Kiana Knowland and Cierra Smith



Upcoming Events

Summer Program

June 7th - July 30th
(see article for more details)

Barry Sanders & Friends Celebrity Golf Classic

Friday, July 9th at 8:00am at
Crestview Country Club



Launch a Successful Life

Club Launch's goal is to transform today's middle school and high school students into tomorrow's qualified, capable employees. It's a mission that meshes nationally with the Boys & Girls Club's mission to develop youth. On Saturdays, students receive workforce training, academic tutoring and real-world lessons. They learn how to obtain jobs, why jobs are important and what jobs are available to them. Through Club Launch, students develop an attitude and aptitude for achievement. That Learning for Life pays off for years to come.

Oren Johnson Memorial Basketball Tournaments

This spring, 14 teams and approximately 175 kids from all across the state played in the Oren Johnson Memorial Boys & Girls Club Basketball Tournaments. The tournaments included participants from second to fifth grades and also included two of our very own "All-Star" teams. Games were played March 20-21 and April 10-11 at the Opportunity Club.

Spring Break – Be Great, Be Transformed!

Fun was had by all at our 2010 Spring Break camp. Each day had a special theme: Monday – Be Healthy; Tuesday – Be a good leader; Wednesday – Be Creative; Thursday – Be whatever you want to be; Friday – Be a Star. Almost 250 kids participated in the camp. The Wichita State University College of Engineering offered Lego Robotics to 25 2nd – 5th graders at the WSU campus each day during spring break. The students built robots out of legos and programmed them to complete challenge courses.



Hot Off the Desk of Jeff Jacobs, CPO

Being a native Californian, I am not accustomed to seasons. It seems like almost to the day our trees and lawns turn from brown to beautiful colors. Yes, spring has sprung and with that I see hundreds of our kids with an extra bounce in their step.

It is during this time of year we have the opportunity to take our kids outside into the fresh air and exercise through play. It is an unfortunate national statistic that obesity in children has risen dramatically. Here at the Boys & Girls Club, we have made a conscientious effort to not only engage our kids in physical activity, but to teach them life-long skills on how to get fit, stay fit, and have proper nutrition. The nicer weather has certainly helped us with our efforts.

We can all be pleased that not only does our local community recognize the good work we do for our kids, but we have been turned to at the national level as a model Boys & Girls Club. We will be hosting two regional trainings for Boys & Girls Club boards and staff. Boys & Girls Clubs of America vice president, Glenn Permuy will be facilitating board training in the fall for all boards in South-West Region. We are honored to host such an event.

Because of our increase in athletic events, our member numbers continue to grow. As always we are most pleased to serve our kids and I thank all of you for your on-going support of kids.



Jeff Jacobs, CPO

A Day of Taste for the 4th & 5th Graders

All children know that milk comes from a cow but do they know that milk makes cheese and that other animals produce milk that can be used to make cheese as well? They do now.

On April 5th, the American Institute of Wine & Food's National Days of TasteSM program sponsored by the local chapter of AIWF paired with children from the South Central Kansas Boys and Girls Club with a chef, food

professionals and volunteers to help learn about cheese, other foods and more in a fun, interactive learning session.

The program — conducted by Lexi Michael, a Wichita native and graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York — was a hands-on educational experience where

the children learned about taste, the food pyramid, local produce and sustainable foods.

They experienced different flavors, tasted cheeses, smelled and touched various grains and herbs and learned about fruits and vegetables. The day ended with the children helping to make a healthy garden salad, setting a table and sitting down to eat the fruits of their labor. Wichita is among 28 chapters locally participating in Days of

Taste programs which reach 10,000 children nationally. Days of Taste began in 1994 in the United States and was modeled after a successful European program called the "Day of Taste," in which chefs from a number of countries visited French elementary school children.



The Annual Barry Sanders & Friends Celebrity Golf Classic

Presented by Capitol Federal

Dust off your clubs for the 6th Annual Barry Sanders and Friends Celebrity Golf Classic, held at Crestview Country Club (north course) on Friday, July 9, 2010. Barry Sanders will again so generously devote his time to raise funds and increase awareness of the organization. The presenting sponsor for this year's tournament

is Capitol Federal. A single player registration is \$200 and includes 18 holes of championship golf, a golf cart, driving range, breakfast and awards lunch. For more information, contact Lindsey Wasinger at 316-201-1890 ext. 107 or by email lwasinger@bgcscck.org.



"Be Great, Be You"

2010 Summer Program

"Be Great, Be You" is a summer program offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas. It is filled with fun, exciting and educational activities that will keep the kids happy and busy all summer.

Summer programming will be offered at our three facility-based sites: 21st St. & Opportunity, Oaklawn and at one school based site: Haysville Middle School. Parents wishing for their child to attend BGCSCCK's summer program will be required to attend an orientation meeting to be held at the site their child will be attending.

21st St. & Opportunity Club & Oaklawn Club – This eight week summer program begins Monday, June 7th and ends Friday, July 30th. These Clubs will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost per week is roughly \$50 per child and equals \$390 for the 8 week summer program. The cost covers planned daily activities, BGCSCCK summer t-shirt,

breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack and all field trip admission costs. The 1st child in the family is \$390 and each additional child in the immediate family is \$340. For more information, please contact Princess McPherson (21st Club) at 201-1890 or Kim Fisher (Oaklawn) at 529-3910. The 21st St. & Opportunity Club is located at 2400 N. Opportunity Dr. in Wichita. The Oaklawn Club is located at 5902 S. Clifton in Wichita.

Haysville Middle School - This summer program will run Monday, June 21st and ends Thursday, July 29th for children entering grades 6th – 8th in the fall. The program hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. The cost for the entire 6 weeks is only \$35. There will be a mandatory informational parent meeting on June 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Haysville Middle School. For more information or to pre-register your child(ren), please call 680-5196. The Haysville Middle School is located at 1956 W. Grand in Haysville.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child please contact the Club at 201-1890 or bgcsck@bgcsck.org.

The 2010 Smiles for Kids Gala



Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas supporters swelled with pride, excitement and generosity at the sixteenth annual Smiles for Kids gala February 25th at the Boys & Girls Club on Opportunity Drive. Friends of the Club raised funds to support the vast array of programs offered and allow us to continue to serve our kids who need us most in the Wichita area. The event's theme was BE TRANSFORMED...INTO TOMORROW'S LEADERS as we focused on the kids and their futures.

"We are excited about the tremendous success of this gala event," said Jeff Jacobs, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club. "In addition to operation funds, the Smiles for Kids gala provided a wonderful venue to showcase the Boys & Girls Club and afforded visibility for the more than 275 supporters living in the Wichita area."

Visibility took a literal meaning February 25th when the children took stage. There were six performance groups – Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Group, Lollipop Band, Steel Band, Samba Band, Junior Dance Company and Senior Dance Company. Supporters enjoyed great food and an outstanding live auction. Combined with sponsorship dollars, more than \$40,000 will go toward programming and operation expenses. In 2009, more than 2,200 young community members were served.

The gala could not have happened without our generous sponsors: BKD, Cessna, Coleman, Cox Media, Fugate Enterprises and Koch Industries. "Boys & Girls Club supporters never cease to amaze me with their generosity and loyalty to this



great organization," said Melissa Hennen, gala committee chair.

The 2010 Smiles for Kids gala was supported by a committee of Wichita-area volunteers, including Chairperson Melissa Hennen. Other committee members included Sharon Van Horn, Susan Niswander, Jeff Redden, Dave Sproul, Samantha Alexander, director of development and Lindsey Wasinger, director of marketing.

Thank you again to all of those that attended the gala for your commitment to the club and our kids.

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United Way of the Plains

Digital Arts Festival

The Boys & Girls Club hosted its Club Tech Digital Arts Festival and featured art created by its members, ages 6 to 18. On March 5th, parents and Wichita community members were invited to enjoy original and innovative pieces highlighting the theme "Inspire your fellow members to Be Great." The winner of the 6 – 12 age range was Jenika Reagans and the 13 – 18 age winner was Maurice Walters.

"The Club Tech Digital Arts Festival is a great way for our members to express themselves artistically and showcase the technology skills they've gained through the Club," said Jeff Jacobs, Chief Professional Officer. "It's important our young people become tech-savvy and gain the skills needed to get into college and secure jobs. The digital arts program opens up the opportunity for our youth to try new things and potentially discover new career paths."

At Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas, members have been taking digital

arts lessons for the past month creating different kinds of media such as photos and ringtones. The program is available to all members and the technology center is often a popular place.

The local Club Tech Digital Arts Festival competition is part of an ongoing, international celebration of Boys & Girls Club members' creativity and tech skills in areas of photo illustration, music production, filmmaking, Website development and graphic design. Sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Microsoft and Best Buy Children's Foundation, the contest falls under the Club Tech program which aims to provide youth with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

Winners of the local Festival will advance to a regional competition and potentially continue on to the national level.



National winners receive an expenses-paid summer trip that includes sightseeing and job-shadowing experiences. In years past, winners have visited the headquarters of Microsoft and Best Buy to get a behind-the-scenes peak at potential careers.