

Kids NOW NEWS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

2019 - Volume 1

Aspire!

Aspire! 2019 was a success thanks to all our guests and supporters. Aspire! 2019 raised \$220,000 for the Clubs. We were thankful and honored by the incredible amount of support we received this year. With the help of Rock the House Entertainment Group, a hilarious and upbeat Emcee, Sparky B and a committee of dedicated staff and volunteers, we were able to make this year's event one for the books.



Baskets, Bundles, and Bidding, Oh My!

We had an incredibly wide variety of auction items this year thanks to our local supporters. The silent auction had over 100 baskets and experiences. "For the Home," "A Night Out," "Sports and Fitness," and many more. BGCWR Board of Directors, Club staff and Aspire volunteers contributed to one of the most popular categories with "My Favorite Things" baskets to help you have a perfect day at the beach, binge watch Game of Thrones, or enjoy a summer evening around your own fire pit or attending an Indians game. Guests could also bid on artwork to take home made by our very own Club members!

The live auction raised over \$12,000 with incredible packages including a Goodyear Blimp ride, an Akron date night, a yacht ride to Chez Francois and more!

A Piece of Cake!

Dessert Dash raised \$11,145 this year as guests put on their running shoes to grab their choice of tasty desserts donated by area restaurants and local bakeries. Our winning table for Dessert Dash was Buckingham, Doolittle, & Burroughs LLC with their generous table contribution of \$1,210! Their table was presented with tableside cherries jubilee and chocolate martinis courtesy of Joe Catalano from TLC Catering featuring Honorary Chair, Theresa Carter as sous-chef.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Power Hour Sponsors

- Circle K
- Omnova Solutions Foundation
- The Richard and Alita Rogers Family Foundation

Good Character Sponsors

- Herzing University – Akron Campus
- GPD Group

Healthy Habits Sponsors

- Rob & Alyssa Briggs
- Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLC
- Hastings Water Works
- Signet Jewelers
- Storm Search

all our SMART Moves and Career Launch Sponsors



Shout Out to Our Event Partners

Mimi Magazine
Rock the House Audio Visual
Noir Creative



Save the Date

Aspire! will be March 28, 2020 at St. George Family Centre. Tickets will go on sale in January 2020! Want to be involved? Contact Ashley Manning, Marketing and Special Events Coordinator at 330-773-3375 or ashleymanning@wrkids.org



Youth of the Year

Abrianna Johnson

We are proud to introduce Abrianna Johnson: 2019 Bud Rogers Youth of the Year. Abrianna's poise and determination will serve her well as she represents our Clubs. While she did not place at the State of Ohio competition, her outlook remained positive. She shared, "My experience at the state competition was amazing. I got to meet new Club members from across Ohio and many more people who want me to achieve my goals. I didn't win this year but my experience was a lot of fun!"

The Youth of the Year Program is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program for Club members. It is a year-round tool for fostering young people's focus on leadership, character and service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles.

Our Youth of the Year represents BGCWR at events, has opportunities to meet community leaders and elected officials, and is the voice for all of our Club members. In addition to being an ambassador for our Clubs, he or she receives funds for college from the Dick and Chris Chenoweth Scholarship Fund.



Volunteer Spotlight

Stephanie "Leo" Leonardi

Local artist, Stephanie "Leo" Leonardi devoted time to share her talent and inspire our Club members to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art. Working with the kids in five sessions, Leo skillfully combined the contributions of nearly 20 Club members to complete this mixed media piece that vividly captures the Akron skyline. The finished artwork was auctioned off at the Aspire! event in March raising \$1,600!

Come volunteer and help us create GREAT FUTURES.

Want to join our volunteer team?

Contact Ashley Manning at ashleymanning@wrkids.org or 330-773-3375.

Ways to Give

Your contribution is an investment in Akron's future; and will have a far-reaching impact. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, meaning your gift may qualify for a charitable deduction under federal laws. You can choose to be recognized as a donor or remain anonymous.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Donate:** We accept most major credit cards for gifts made online via our website at www.wrkids.org/ donate or if you prefer to send a check a remittance envelope is included for your convenience.
- **Sponsorship:** Join us as a sponsor of Aspire! our annual event, or support a BGCWR program.
- **Legacy:** This gift might include naming Boys & Girls Clubs in your will, a charitable gift annuity, a trust arrangement, a real estate gift or a life insurance policy.
- **Matching Gift:** Many employers have matching programs whereby they match the gift you make to BGCWR, so you can DOUBLE your donation, and make DOUBLE the impact. Please check with your human resource department to discover if your company has a matching gift program.

Please contact the Community Engagement Department for any questions at 330-773-3375 or ctaylor@wrkids.org.

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



HERZING[®] — UNIVERSITY —

Community Partner Spotlight

BGCWR is grateful for our community partners, here are a few words from Herzing University President Bill Cassidy.

Over the past 3 years, Herzing University Akron has fostered a dynamic relationship with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve. We were seeking a community partner that shared similar visions, had a passion for changing lives, and was community focused. We found all of that in the Clubs. As partners, we have teamed up for a yearly Back to School Backpack

Drive that has provided backpacks to the Akron area students. We have been supportive in community events that are taking place, being a part of scholarship programs, and so many other worthwhile events. It is difficult to put into words, the joy and satisfaction that we get knowing that

we have partnered with an organization that mirrors Herzing University. I used the word "We" a lot in this short description, but a true partnership is about "We", and not I.



Let's Celebrate Graduation and Great Futures



The Clubs offer tested, proven and nationally recognized programs in five Core Program Areas that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people: The Arts, Education, Health & Wellness, Leadership & Service, and Sports & Recreation.

Our programs are designed to encourage Club members to realize a wide variety of positive outcomes and prepare them to be active, engaged, contributed members of our society.

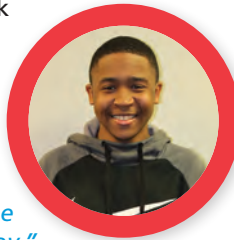
We are very proud of our graduating seniors and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Great Futures Start Here.

Amir G., 17
Archbishop Hoban High School

Future Plans: Stark State – Pastoral Counselor

Club Quote:
"The Boys & Girls Club kept me off the streets and helped me become the man I am today."



Michael T., 18
Ellet High School

Future Plans: Kent State University – Music Education

Club Quote:
"I love the Club. It has taught me a lot. Because of the Club, I'm the person I am today."



Rae'Awna L., 18
Kenmore Garfield High School

Future Plans: Army

Club Quote:
"I love my Club. When I have issues in life, I can always count on the staff to be there for me. I owe a lot to the Club, and one day I will make the Club proud by succeeding in life."



Brendn R., 18
Akron Alternative Academy

Future Plans: National Guard

Club Quote:
"The Boys & Girls Club has shaped me."



Malaya O., 17
Kenmore Garfield High School

Future Plans: Kent State University

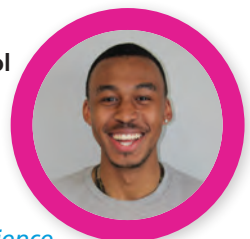
Club Quote:
"I imagine volunteering and supporting the Clubs as a successful alumna."



James W., 18
Ellet High School

Future Plans: National Guard and Veterinary Science

Club Quote:
"My Club experience has been great. I've been a Club member for years and it has helped me find direction in life and explore my options for the future."





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SERVING GREATER AKRON

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March 28, 2020

St. George Family Centre

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of the Western
Reserve



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BGCWR



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BGCWR



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Boys & Girls Clubs
of the Western
Reserve



Follow us on
Instagram:

bgcwr

Message from Our President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Your steadfast support and generosity means so much to our Akron kids. Thanks to YOU, we have created safe, fun places where all youth—especially those who need us most—are welcomed every day after school and throughout the summer. You have been instrumental in transforming the lives of our local youth for the past 35 years and have helped them attain the GREAT FUTURES we all know they deserve.

That's why I want to personally share some exciting news about our organization with you!

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve and three other area Boys & Girls Clubs – Cleveland, Erie County, and Lorain County—have decided to integrate. Our Board of Directors voted that effective July 1, 2019, our Akron Clubs will become part of the newly formed Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (BGCNEO), an organization we believe will help us better serve both Akron youth, and other young people across the region, with even more impactful programming.

All of the Clubs will retain their local identities, so it's likely you will not notice any changes. As a cohesive organization, we anticipate we will attract greater regional support that will be life-changing for youth here in Akron and throughout Northeast Ohio. Together, in addition to effectively serving more youth, we will scale our best practices, streamline Club operations, be more cost-efficient, and attract and retain additional youth development professionals dedicated to helping our youth succeed.

I know you will be pleased to hear we are continuing to find avenues that provide more kids with increased opportunities in art, music, athletics, academics and career readiness. We feel confident that our combined efforts will strengthen our movement in Northeast Ohio and enhance the Club experience for every kid who counts on us for help and guidance.

As always, we seek to inspire all young people who need us most to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. We will not waver from this mission. With you by our side, we'll continue to be a place where who you are, where you're from, or the circumstances that surround you, don't determine your access to experiences, opportunities or success.

Through your unfaltering support, our Clubs will continue to make that vision a reality — from our great past, in our great present and into our great future.

In service of our youth,
Julie M. Johnson

*President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the
Western Reserve*

