



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WEST CHESTER/LIBERTY**

April 2019 Newsletter

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Emily Hardy, Vice President of Operations, was recently honored as the Ohio Club Professional of the Year at the Boys & Girls Clubs Area Council Meeting in Perrysburg, OH.

Emily was promoted to her new position as Vice President of Operations in September of last year. Since assuming the role, she has quickly proven herself as a strong leader and the right fit for this important executive team position. Her almost four years of BGC experience uniquely positioned her to take on this new opportunity given her knowledge of BGCA programs and strategies, coupled with the heart of an educator and an unmatched compassion for each of our members and families. This is a tremendous and well-deserved recognition of Emily's leadership and commitment to the mission and vision of our Club!

A HISTORIC MOMENT - YOUTH OF THE YEAR KARI DWOMOH!



YOY

Congrats Kari!

On March 25th, we crowned our 1st ever Youth of the Year, **Ms. Kari Dwomoh!**

Kari is a quiet, yet energetic, 8th grader from Ridge Junior School. She has a huge heart for others and one of her main passions is to help end poverty. She believes that each of us can make a difference in this world, as long as we learn to put our differences aside and work together for the common good. Kari is an amazing young woman, who is determined to work hard and make the most out of all of the opportunities that she is given.

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) premiere recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of our most inspiring Club members. Along with an extensive application process (including essays, letters of recommendation and a speech), each candidate must be 14 years of age and have been a Club member for at least 2 years. This was the first year that the BGCWCL was able to officially participate in the National program and send a youth to the Ohio State YOY competition, which was held in Perrysburg, Ohio, April 5-6th. While Kari did not win the Ohio YOY title, she was the youngest competitor and the only junior high school student out of the 13 that competed. She held her own with all of them, including some that had competed in previous years! We are so proud of everything that Kari has accomplished so far, and will continue to accomplish in the future. Kari will represent the BGCWCL for events this year, as our very own Youth of the Year!





INTERNATIONAL PI DAY

— 3.14 —

Celebration!

For two weeks, cups with faces of the staff lined the front desk. We collected coins for summer fun, while offering our students a once a year experience; the ability to pie staff members in the face.

To celebrate Pi Day (3.14), the staff members who had the most money in their cups got pied in the face. Students used their prize passes to be eligible for the lottery to pie the staff.

Three lucky students got to pie **Mr. KJ, Miss Emily, and Mr. All**



The Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty was honored to receive the Larry Schumacher Beautification Award at the recent West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance Annual Dinner on March 2.

When we began this project, we focused on making the Club a place that would bring children and families back to "Olde West

Chester" and make this area alive and thriving once more. In addition, we promised to bring the community together by opening the Boys & Girls Club's doors to civic groups and youth sports leagues for rental use outside of Club operating hours. We are pleased to have accomplished both. This building is much more than just a place for children to come afterschool, it's a place to be and belong! The dream in building this Club has truly come to life as its impact continues to grow!



We hosted our second annual Bracket Bash! Kids went head to head in ping-pong, carpet-ball, and foosball the whole week leading up to the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

2019



Bracket Bash



Club members packed the blue bleachers to cheer on their favorite teams, enjoying complimentary Body Armour sports drinks courtesy of **Coca-Cola Consolidated** and popcorn from **AMC Theater West Chester**.

On the court, volunteers from **NIKE** outlet refereed, kept score, and kept our teams hydrated! **NIKE** also donated several of the tournament prizes. All the while, BGC Staff cheered and coached.

Though the competition was fierce, we were all winners at Team BGCWCL!



Beth just celebrated her 1 year anniversary with the BGCWCL in March! After being a lifelong Pennsylvania resident, Beth moved to the Cincinnati area to be near her grandchildren and hasn't regretted a day since. Family is her greatest passion. Beth brings to us a wealth of administrative management experience and knowledge, along with childcare and elementary school experience.



Beth Greenwalt

Beth says that "kids are what makes the world a better place, and what better place for kids to be than the Boys & Girls Club!"



Over **Spring Break** we welcomed approximately 60 students per day, with programming in the areas of academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship. We hosted a mini version of our summer programming including Club Fit and a new program called Collaborate where students worked together through trial and error to create a brand new game. Students also tried out new skills such as cooking and creative writing during Special Skills while older members tested out the Teens Only track, experimenting with new things like podcasting! Our week was full, and ended with a fun-filled Color Bash, where students had a chance to get messy and throw colored powder balls at each other in a club-wide game of capture the flag.



**Introducing our BGCWCL
Building Rental Coordinator...
Caley Murphy**

We are pleased to announce that Caley Murphy, a BGCWCL Youth Development Professional, has added Building Rental Coordinator to her list of important responsibilities here at the Club. Caley will work closely with community groups and individuals that are looking for space to host events, practices and meetings. For facility rental inquiries throughout the year, she can be reached at cmurphy@bgcwcl.org or 513-860-1923.



Our volunteer shout-out this month goes to Mrs. Joy Hunter. She's no stranger to the district; many Club members recognize her from her years of teaching art for Lakota elementary schools. Naturally, she spends much of her time helping out in the BGCWCL artroom assisting Mr. Caleb, archiving finished works, or teaching projects from her own repertoire. She often applies her expertise in our Learning Center as well, where she has formed many strong relationships. True to her name, each week she is greeted with running hugs and a gleeful "Ms. Joy!"

Thank you, Joy, for sharing your expertise and exceptional service with us!



For more information about our summer program go to www.bgcwcl.org/what-we-do/summer-program.html



For more information, or to register for either of the above events, please go to www.bgcwcl.org

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Family Night - Thursday, April 18th from 5:30-7:30pm

(Dinner is served from 5:30-6:30pm)

Teen Night - Friday, May 10th from 9-11pm

Family Night - Thursday, May 16th from 5:30-7:30pm

(Dinner is served from 5:30-6:30pm)

Thank you to our contributors for this Newsletter:

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Caleb Redslob, and Beth Greenwalt