Summer 2014
Volume 8, Issue 2

Mission:
To provide a fun, safe place that kids can call their own, where they are inspired to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.

Guidelines:
BGCLPC currently publishes this newsletter 4 times per year.

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Battling the Summer Brain Drain

Many parents and kids argue that summer is a time to relax by the river, ride bikes, and play outside, not practice their algebra and periodic tables. Unfortunately, the cost of a summer of total relaxation is that many young people return to school in the fall only to find they have forgotten months of learning from the previous school year. This is “Summer Brain Drain,” also known as summer learning loss or the summer slide.

“While months without daily lessons are part of the problem, another cause of Summer Brain Drain is that many kids are left with little or no direction to channel their time and energies during the summer,” says Kim Heald, BGC academic success staff.

The Boys & Girls Club hosts programs for 1st-8th grade to help prevent learning loss. Each day members participate in 45-60 minutes of academic activities. During this time there are fun educational games (offered both on and off the computer), free reading, classic book storytime, and completion of educational summer workbooks. The summer workbooks contain Math, English, Science, and Social Studies content. In addition to scheduled academic programs, kids are constantly encouraged to apply critical thinking and problem solving skills during Club games and activities.

Studies have shown that kids who participate in out-of-school academic programs have higher math and reading performance, improved attendance, reduced dropout rates, decreased involvement in crime, improved behavior at school and heightened interest in learning. That’s why summer programs at the Boys & Girls Club help to provide a balance of fun and learning, making sure our members are ready to start the school year strong in the fall.

Teens Taking Action- Fighting Drug Abuse in our Communities

Rise Above Colorado is a drug abuse prevention organization that impacts teen perceptions and attitudes about the risks of substance abuse. The Rise Above Colorado Teen Action Council is a group of high school students from across the state who come together to extend the message through service and education projects. I wanted to join the Rise Above Colorado Teen Action Council because I wanted to make a difference in my community regarding drug abuse.

Colorado is 7th for the total number of Meth users ages 12 and up in the United States, and over 90% of all addictions begin in the teenage years. Due to these facts, I felt that the best way to fight drug abuse would be to join the Teen Action Council where I could speak as a peer against drug abuse.

The Council is involved in outreach through community events and social media. I myself have helped share information through a booth at the La Plata County Fair and partnered up with the Boys & Girls Club to put up a mural promoting healthy lifestyles. The mural is a way to show kids that the are fun, healthier alternatives to drugs all around them. This is my second year on the Rise Above Colorado Teen Action Council and I am excited to begin more service projects and begin making more changes in the upcoming year to help stop drug abuse not only in my community, but everywhere.

This article was written by Taylor Morris, a Club member, Leader in Training and a member of Rise Above Colorado’s Teen Action Council.
When I think back to the summers of my youth I can vividly remember certain things: the last day of school, the 4th of July (almost burned down the shed), staying out until dark playing stick ball and kick the can and never wanting summer to end. I bet some of you have similar memories and that is why I love summer at the Boys & Girls Club.

Sure, 150 kids a day can be a little chaotic, or should I say “dynamic?” However, the ability to help kids develop memories that will last a lifetime is truly inspirational. Each and every day young people are engaging in programs and activities that challenge them intellectually, emotionally and physically. From daily fitness challenges and the summer bridge academics program to the relationships that develop amongst tweens and teens, there never is a dull moment.

I enjoy watching the kids at the Club try new games, learn how to play a different sport, or just encounter new experiences and opportunities. By trying new things, kids achieve a sense of accomplishment and that is something they remember long after the busy day is done.

By the time the kids go back to school in August we will have provided them with more than 650 hours of programs and activities in the areas of academic success, character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles. But more importantly, with a little luck, we have been part of a lifelong memory for kids who spent the summer of 2014 at the Boys & Girls Club.

In Service to Youth,

Vaughn Morris

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**Members in the Spotlight:**

**Youth of the Month Winners**

**February - Toree**

Toree enjoys participating in educational and tech activities and loves art. She has submitted several entries into Boys & Girls Club of America’s National Fine Arts Competition and won many art contests.

**March - Carlos**

Carlos is friendly, helpful and caring. Throughout his years at the Club his attitude and behavior has really improved and he has become a role model for other members. Carlos enjoys participating in sports, technology and educational programs.

**April - Baylee**

Baylee is the Vice President of the Keystone Club, and is currently working as a junior staff. She is a leader within the Club and enjoys helping others. Baylee was also just announced as the National winner for BGCA’s annual Photo Tech Contest.

**May - Ivan**

Ivan H. is an active participant in many Club programs and activities. Ivan loves gameroom tournaments, Middle School Monday activities, and participating in SPARK. He is a great helper to Club staff and other kids.

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**Vivid Summer Memories**

-Letter from the Director-

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At our first summer all-Club activity, Club members got to throw pies at the new Junior Staff. The Junior Staff program is designed to help our high school members build their leadership and job skills. While Junior Staff are employees, they also attend weekly trainings and team building activities and receive mentorship from senior staff.
Because of your generosity, Great Futures Start Here!

Founders Club

Individual:
John & Cissy Anderson  
Pat & Lisa Barrett  
Clint & Mary Barter  
Bob & Tricia Blair  
Marsh & Peggy Bull  
Dr. Pakhi Chaudhuri  
Don Freemeyer  
Randy & Janet Geist  
Barbara Harris  
Karen Koso  
Kip Koso & Jeanine Justice  
Bob Lieb & Annie Carroll  
LLH Operations– Sue Hess  
Peter & Lisa Marshall  
Vaughn & Shannon Morris  
Howard & Christine Rachlin  
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Eileen & Jack Wasserbach  
Bob Lieb & Annie Carroll  
Lori Bowers  
Lori Bowers  
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Corporate:
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Pat & Lisa Barrett  
Michael Baty  
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Samantha Gallant  
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Debbie Goodman  
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Marian Hamlen  
Al & Carol Harper  
John Harrington  
Barbara Harris  
Healthcare Strategies & Solutions  
Jeff Hensley  
Sue Hess  
Cora Hill  
Jere & Lois Hill  
Gary Hunter  
Dick Imig  
Lynn & Blake Ingle  
Iron Horse Bicycle Classic  
LeeAnn Jackson  
Tim & Tami Jantz  
Neil Johnson  
Marc & Jane Katz  
Sarah Kautzman  
Malcolm Kelly  
Charley Kier  
William & Megan Krischke  
Timothy Kroses  
Kam & Joe Leder  
Jim & Carol Lewin  
Laura Lewis Marchino  
Bobbie & Meredith Lieb  
Steve Linn  
Jack Llewellyn  
Judith Llewellyn  
LPEA  
Cherrie & Dennis Lam  
M3 Midstream  
Joel Jones & Rochelle Mann  
Meredith Mapel  
Paul Mares  
Jaime & Luis Marquez  
Peter & Lisa Marshall  
Amanda & Dennis Martin  
Jill Marvin  
Mark Mastalski  
Scott Mathis  
Loy Maycock  
Chris McClain  
Roseann McDermott  
Mark McKibben  
Mercury Payment Systems  
Judy Michalski  
Patricia Money  
Pam & Wade Moore  
Liz Mora  
Janet Mosher  
Kristin Nielsen  
Richard Norton  
Don & Terri Oliver  
Heather Oliver  
Melvin Owen  
Tiffany Parker  
Stephen Pease  
Pediatric Partners of the SW  
Avery Perryman  
Susan Phillips  
Gina Piccoli  
Eric Pinkerton  
Marsha Porter-Norton  
Roger & Andrea Ptolemy  
Howard & Christine Rachlin  
Candace Richerson  
Christina Rinderle  
Todd Risberg  
Brian Rose  
Anthony & Elise Savastano  
Christy Schaerer  
Duke Schirard  
Jennifer Scholfield  
Lisa & Mark Schwantes  
Linda Schwinghammer  
John & Aline Schwob  
Lisa Self  
Pat Senecal  
Bob Sheldon  
Matthew Sheldon  
Teri and Andrew Simmons  
Karen Singmaster  
Marjorie Sittner  
Frank & Patricia Skillen  
David Smiley  
David Smith  
Haeryon Kim & Carol Smith  
Southwest Ag  
Dan Snowberger  
Don & Mary Southworth  
Charles Spence  
St. Columba Church  
David Steele  
Christian Stoddard  
Stoneage Inc.  
Swan Health Advisors  
Synergy Businessware  
The Mail Room & Copy Center  
The Payroll Department  
Dene & Gordon Thomas  
Lynn Urban  
Gil & Jacqueline Van Lunsen  
Jim Vorwald  
Jennifer Wagnon  
Linda Ward  
Brenna and Robert Watson  
Jasper Welch  
Nancy Wharton  
Nancy & Robert Whitson  
Will Construction  
Marjie & Howard Wilson  
Lauren Young  
Todd Youngblood  
Christi Zeller  
Peggy Zemach  
Jerry & Karen Zink

Leaving a legacy can touch the lives of countless children and create a lasting memory. Consider including the Boys & Girls Club in your will or estate plan.
Save the Date!

**Friday, September 19th - Worldwide Day of Play for Kids**
Celebrating active play is what this day is all about. We encourage all of our members and their families to turn off technology and get out and play. We also want all of the adults in our community to take some time out to play a game with a child - it makes a big impact!

**Friday, September 26th - The Club’s 7th Birthday Bash**
Join us to celebrate our 7th birthday. In true birthday party fashion, we will have food, games, entertainment and more. Tickets will be available this fall, so stay tuned for more information. If you would like to be a sponsor of this fun event, please contact megan@bgclaplata.org.

**October 6th-20th - Bid for Kids Online Auction**
It’s returning, a chance to shop for a good cause! Visit www.bgclaplata.org to bid on spa treatments, vacation packages, lift tickets, dining and merchandise gift certificates and more. Have an item you would like to donate? Please send an email to megan@bgclaplata.org

For more information about any of these events call the Club at (970) 375-0010 or visit on the web at www.bgclaplata.org