

OUR MISSION:

TO ENABLE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS PRODUCTIVE, CARING, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.

Whats up? At the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2008

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board President
- Kelli Burchell**
Board Secretary
- Sonya Harmon**
Board Treasurer

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- Bonnie Krueger
- Christine May
- Linda Moya
- Ron Leone
- Cory Lucas
- Judge Jim Martin
- Tres Libby
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Clint Ziehl
Chief Executive Officer

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No longer surviving, we're THRIVING!

As many of you know we have begun life anew here at the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces. From new staff, a new CEO, and a new Board. Every one involved came in with determination to get the Club back on track, and to make it the best that it could possibly be. New programs such as the Club Olympics, SMART Moves, Power Hour dedicated for homework and tutoring, the GREAT program for teens, as well as many others helped serve as the catalyst of getting the Club's programming back on track.

The Club has not only stayed in operation, but has expanded to open a new Teen Center. The growth of the Club can also be measured in the most important way, by the numbers of kids who

participate. The overall membership has grown in the last two years from just over 100 members to over 700 registered members today. Daily attendance has grown from around 25 kids to over 175 daily.



The Club's growth, sustainability over the past two years, and ability to thrive, even in today's rough economy, has been due to the great people of Las Cruces, and the state of New Mexico.

Your continued support in our time of need, has led the Club to reach new heights, and begin to achieve many great things.

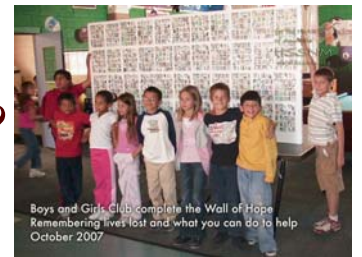
There are numerous businesses, corporations, and individuals who have devoted their time, talents, and money in order to keep the Club going leading it to where it is today. The Club kids are coming to the Club today because of each and every one of the caring individuals who came to our aid.

The Club is proud to serve the community of Las Cruces. We have been here going on 43 years, and with everyone's continued support, plan on being around even longer.

The Club in the News, have you seen us?

You may have seen or read about the Club recently. From our setbacks to our successes, the Boys & Girls Club has seen its share of headlines lately. Our great partners in the Las Cruces Sun News and the Las Cruces Bulletin have done a tremendous job of keeping everyone up-to-

date on the goings on of the Club. With our recent successes such as the Governor's aid, we have had some good stories published. As the Club continues to grow and expand our services, keep an eye out in both of these publications because there are many great stories that will be



coming. We have great stories that happen every day here at the Club and we appreciate both the Sun News and the Bulletin for keeping all of Las Cruces informed.

2008 Steak & Steak



The kids and Mr. Billy stole the show.

On the evening of May 1st, 2008, the Eagle's Club was the place to be. There was great food provided by Texas Roadhouse, entertainment by the band Oldies but Goodies, entertainment from the kids of the Club, live and silent auction items, and special guest speaker Brian Young of the New Orleans Saints.

This was our first ever Steak & Steak Dinner, and it was a success. The dinner and auction raised just over \$25,000. Next year's dinner is going to be an even better time, so reserve your seats soon!

Thank you to all of our table sponsors, auction donors, and everyone who attended. Judging by the positive responses from everyone who attended, if

you were not there, you missed out on a great evening!



Steak & Steak Thanks

We would like to thank the following for participating in our first annual Steak & Steak Dinner:

Table Sponsors:

- Mountain View Regional Medical Center
- The City of Las Cruces
- Southern NM Humane Society
- The Optimist Club
- IMA Real Estate
- The Boys & Girls Club of El Paso
- Summit Development
- Ron Leone
- Ken Hoeksema
- Wal-Mart
- Kids Kare P.C. Family Dentistry
- The Philippou Group
- Tom & Judy Smith

Half Table Sponsors:

- Sisbarro
- Burger Time
- The Emerald Isle
- Metal Craft
- Helping Kids be Kids Foundation
- Family Pride Foundation

Individual Tickets:

- Carol Calvert
- Sonya Harmon
- Tres Libby
- Cory Lucas
- Thomas & Margaret Hoeksema
- Barnett Harley Davidson
- Christopher Calvert
- Kevin Davis
- Paul & Kathy Lewis
- Pat & Valecia Gavin
- Doug Watters

We would also like to extend thanks to the many generous businesses who donated items for our live and silent auctions, which helped raise over \$6000 combined!

Texas Roadhouse provided the food, which was served by the Pike Fraternity from NMSU. Thank you all for helping make this such a success.



Some of the great silent auction items!

Why the Boys & Girls Club?

Every day after school, thousands of children go home alone. School drop-out rates are ever increasing, with the national number now about 25%. An even more alarming number is that according to the national Child Trends Databank, among youth ages 16 to 24, Hispanics are accounted for 41% off all dropouts, yet only make up 17% of the total youth population.

The Boys & Girls Club cannot by itself solve these problems, but as a leader in after school programming the Club can collaborate with many other agencies to help offset these disturbing statistics.

The Boys & Girls Club uses time-tested national programs that enhance kids lives in the areas of:

- Character and Leadership Development
- Health and Life Skills
- The Arts
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation
- Education and Career Development

The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces is unique from other programs in that:

- There is a Dedicated Youth Facility– The Boys & Girls Club is a place, an actual neighborhood based building, designed solely for youth programs and activities.
- The Club is Open Daily– The Club is open every day, after school and on many weekends when kids have free time and need positive, productive outlets.
- Professional Staff– The Club has full time, trained youth development professionals providing positive role models and mentors. Volunteers provide key supplementary support.
- Available/Affordable to all youth– The Club reaches out to kids who cannot afford, or may lack access to, other community programs. Dues are low, and no child is turned away due to financial hardship.

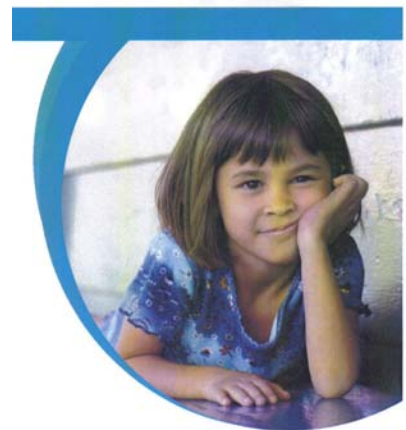
“I am living proof that the Boys & Girls Clubs work.” - Denzel Washington

Here are some of the Alumni from Boys & Girls Clubs across America:
Denzel Washington
Michael Jordan
President Clinton
Bill Cosby
Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Neil Diamond
Alex Rodriguez
Martin Sheen
Smokey Robinson
Tony Gonzalez
Evander Holyfield
Jennifer Lopez
Edward James Olmos
Shaquille O’Neil
Joe Morgan
James Worthy
Swin Cash
General Wesley Clark
Gale Sayers

To see many more visit www.bgca.org



What difference have YOU made in the life of a child?





Clint Ziehl
Chief Executive Officer

Did you know?

In its 2007 "Philanthropy 400" the Chronicle of Philanthropy placed Boys & Girls Clubs of America in the No. 1 position among youth organizations for the 13th consecutive year.

The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces has been around since 1965.

Many Boys & Girls Clubs started out as boxing Clubs, and the local Burke boxing family helped found the Las Cruces Club with the help of the Optimist Club.

From the Chief:

It is an honor to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Cruces for the past two years. I have always been impressed with this exceptional organization and its leadership team and was very fortunate to be able to come back home to Las Cruces to become a part of the BGCLC. The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces is a remarkable agency that provides a positive influence in every aspect of a child's life.

The moment our kids walk through our doors, they have the opportunity to experience life changing relationships, programs, and services. BGCLC kids participate in educational, health, life skills, leadership, sports, and arts activities every single day. We keep kids off the streets, out of trouble, and engaged in positive behavior.

Although we already serve more than 1,000 kids in the community, there are still many more that need our help. It is my goal is to make sure that every kid that needs a place in a Boys & Girls Club has one. Accomplishing this goal is going to take extensive efforts, resources and collaboration from the entire community. Kids that participate in the Boys & Girls Clubs also contribute positively to their community and in the end, benefit the entire community of Las Cruces.

Each night, after our kids have done their homework, have something to eat, and have learned lessons carefully disguised as fun, I watch as their parents arrive to pick them up. I see the joy in the kids' eyes... and I see the relief on the parents' faces. Those parents know their kids have been safe, respected and nurtured, and they know their kids are happy.

I hope you will join me, my staff and our Board of Directors as we work to provide the best Boys & Girls Club and programming possible. I hope you will support our fundraisers, volunteer your time, or just drop by to see the work that we are doing. Once you experience the incredible things that are happening in our Club, you will know that we have become what he have set out and always will strive to be, The Positive Place for Kids!

Straight talk from the kids:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| "The Club is fun!"
Lawrence, 9 | - | "All my friends come here!"
- Denise, 6 |
| "I like the new Teen Center, it is nice and great to get away from the little kids."
Evan, 13 | - | "I like all the changes, the Club is fun!"
- Alicia, 12 |
| "I like all the changes. I have been here since I was little and it is much nicer now."
- Pablo, 13 | - | "The Club is a good place, if you have kids they should come here!"
- Tyler, 11 |



The new Teen Center

As you may have read in the newspaper, the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces is thankful to open a new Teen Center. A grant from Governor Richardson paved the way for the project. The teen program has benefitted greatly by having their own area separating them from the younger children. The Teen Center features a computer lab, video games, teen program area, and our teen coordinator, Miss Ashley.

We had the privilege of having Governor Richardson come and dedicate the Teen Center. Special thanks needs to go out to the following with-out whom we could not have opened the Teen Center:

Governor Richardson	Best Buy	Thrivent Lutherin
Green Guys Landscaping	Pat Campbell Insurance	Home Depot
Ashley Furniture	Comcast	El Paso Electric
Alls Furniture	Casey Carpet	WalMart

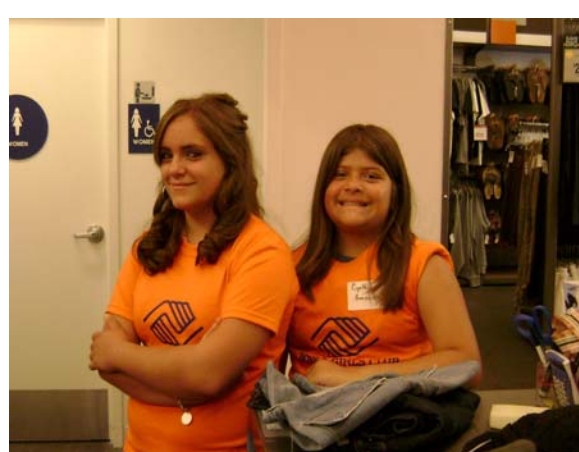
Being a leader in afterschool programming, the Club saw the need to open the Teen Center to do its part in battling the problems that plague teens and communities nationwide. The Club saw the need for teen programming and decided to create and evaluate new strategies to attract and obtain new teen members providing them with safe, fun, and positive experiences with adult mentors.

When young people enter their teen years they have numerous options to spend their time after school. Unlike the younger children, the teens have the flexibility to make their own decisions about their after school activities and do not always see the Boys & Girls Club as relevant to their maturing lifestyle. Therefore, it is an ongoing challenge to recruit and maintain teen members. During the teenage years negative peer pressure increases greatly. The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces saw the following problems and created the teen center to help combat the facts of:

- Youth being at greater risk for victimized by violent crimes between the hours after school.
- Every day 4,000 American youth between the ages of 12-17 try their first cigarette.
- Nearly 1/3 of high school students do not graduate on time. This number grows to 1/2 for African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

The BGCLC believes that these trends can be reversed. The same research shows that youth involved in an after school extra-curricular activity are 51% less likely to have used drugs, and 63% less likely to become teen parents than those who have not.

Students involved in quality after school programs also achieve greater academic success, have better behavior in school, and set higher goals and expectations for their future. Most importantly the research shows that the ever raising high school drop-out rate can actually be significantly lowered through consistent academic encouragement.





330 W. Las Cruces Ave
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 Phone: 575-526-1519
 Fax: 575-524-9974
 email: clint@bgclubc.org



Yes! I would like to donate to the Boys & Girls Club.
 \$25 Like Mike—Sponsors one child for our basketball league.
 \$50 Hungry Harry—Purchases snacks for one of the Club sites for a week.
 \$100 Traveling Tina—Sends 20 kids on a special field trip.
 \$250 Phillip Miles—Fills up our Vans for a week to ensure 75 kids get
 picked up at school and taken to the Club.
 \$500 Kelly Watts—Keeps our Electricity on for one month.
 \$1000 Members Only—Sponsors membership costs for one month for 10
 kids who cannot otherwise afford to come to the Club.

CLIP AND MAIL

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/ State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make your check payable to:
 The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces
 All donations are tax-deductible.

How can you help?

The Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces has needs in many areas. We can always use volunteers, mentors, tutors, referees and coaches to work directly with our kids.

Programming needs:

- School Supplies
- Art Supplies
- Xbox 360 console
- Xbox 360 games
- Sports equipment
- DVD Player
- Snacks

Monthly Birthday Celebrations:

- Birthday cakes
- Ice Cream
- Toys or gifts

General Club Needs:

- Club Vans
- Office supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Paint & paint brushes



Please call the office for a complete list of items needed for programming, operating, and enhancing Club services for youth and their families.

Stop by the office, call 575-526-1519 or email Clint Ziehl at clint@bgclubc.org