

2008-2009

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The **Positive Place For Kids**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

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JAN / FEB / MAR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Brandi Stevens Crowned Youth of the Year

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana is pleased to announce Brandi Stevens as the 2007-2008 Youth of the Year (YOY).

A Cedar Lake Club member, Brandi is recognized for her overall commitment and dedication to her family, school and Club. A sophomore at Crown Point High School, Brandi demonstrates strong character and leadership. At school, Brandi spends her study hall tutoring special education students. Her empathy to help work with special needs students stems from the care she provides to her sixteen year-old brother born with Down's Syndrome. In addition to taking care of her

brother, and participating in school activities, Brandi finds time to actively participate in Club activities.

A Club member since the age of seven, Brandi participates in Torch Club, SMART Moves, SMART Girls and has served as both President and Vice President for Keystone Club.

"The Club has taught me to not let anyone tell me that I can't do something,, and that I can do anything I set out to accomplish," said Brandi.

During her one on one YOY interview, Brandi impressed the judges with her aspiration to become a lawyer. Already enrolled in



Brandi Stevens (center) with YOY judges John Owens and Professor Trina Lynch Jackson

college preparatory classes, this budding attorney is taking necessary measures to achieve her goals. Brandi's next step is to join other youth from around the state of Indiana in Indianapolis April 24-25 to compete for the state's Youth of the Year (YOY) title. The Sate Youth of the Year program is sponsored by the accounting firm BKD.

Helping Shape the Future

BGCNWI RECEIVES THREE CORPORATE PROGRAM SPONSORS

JP Morgan Chase Foundation, for a second year, contributed \$25,000 to BGCNWI's "Making the Grade" program. Through this support Chase is ensuring that Boys & Girls Club members have access to supplemental educational material to improve both math and reading fluency.

With a \$20,000 contribution, **Fifth-Third Bank** is making sure that reading literacy remains a priority for all young people. With this commitment BGCNWI can continue to stress the importance of reading and acquire resources for helping Club members receive additional literacy support they need in order to be successful in life.

All hands on deck as **Peoples Bank** not only committed \$17,500 to support BGCNWI's Money Matters program, but appointed a dedicated host of bank employees to conduct the program at each Club location. This generous donation is helping our Clubs to acquire pertinent learning material such as Money Matters learning packets, calculators, rulers and other material needed to teach Boys & Girls Club members responsible financial literacy practices.



HONOR ROLL

Lake Station Club Learning Center Instructor Named 2007 Employee of the Year

*Employee Earns Opportunity to Attend
Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Conference*



Donna Littell embodies all the work ethics of a dedicated Boys & Girls Club staff. Serving as the Lake Station Club learning center instructor, Donna extended her role by taking on other duties in the absence of fellow colleagues.

"Donna goes out of her way on a daily basis to see that the needs of all our children are met," said Donna Gonzales, Club director, Lake Station Boys & Girls Club.

Donna goes above and beyond to ensure that members participating in learning center programs improve their reading, writing and comprehension skills. In addition, Donna commits to extra hours at the Club in order to make sure all program material is ready for when members arrive to the Club.

"Donna is diligent in her commitment to helping the youth," said Gonzales. "Her relationships with them grow stronger everyday."

Meet First Quarter Employees of the Month

Leo Roper was BGCNWI's January Employee of the Month. Leo joined BGCNWI in May 2005 as the recreational leader for the Columbia Center in Hammond. Leo now serves as the recreational leader for the Hammond Boys & Girls Club. He is recognized for his ability to reach out to members, parents and serves as a devoted leader for the Passport to Manhood program.

Sharon Jensen was recognized as BGCNWI's February employee of the Month. Sharon joined BGCNWI in April 2007 as Development Assistant in the Resource Development/Marketing Department. Sharon is recognized for her success in maintaining the new database, taking on many projects, ensuring information reported to the Board is accurate and providing fund development reports to the

Clubs.

Belinda Johnson-Kelly was recognized as March Employee of the Month. Belinda joined BGCNWI February 2007. Belinda is recognized for her team spirit. In addition to her role as Administrative Secretary, Belinda has stepped in to perform tasks of two other positions in her department.

BGCNWI Welcomes New Board Members

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana would like to welcome aboard the following new Board of Directors: Kate Hanson, John Matthieson, Bill Masterson, Jeff Strack, Leslie Kiefer, J. Michael Baird and Roosevelt Haywood III

BGCNWI Awarded \$193,036 U.S. Department of Education Mentoring Program Grant

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana received a \$193,036 Mentoring Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This substantial grant will be used to fund the first year of BGCNWI's Ten Step Rights of Passage program. The funding is for three years. The Rights of Passage program helps children in middle and high schools make the transition to responsible adulthood. Forty-five students at the 21st Century Charter School in Gary, Campagna Academy in Schererville and the School City of Hammond are selected to participate in this intensive program.

Calendar of Events

April National Financial Literacy Month

- Mar. 30-Apr. 5** National Boys & Girls Clubs Week
- April 5** Reilly Foundation Car Wash Program
- April 19** Lake Station Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- April 24-25** State Youth of the Year Competition
- April 27- May 3** National Volunteer Week
- April 28** BGCNWI Annual Board Luncheon

May National Foster Care Month

- May 4** John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club/Tom Olesker Annual International Fashion Show
- May 5** Cinco de Mayo

- May 11** Mother's Day
- May 23** Clubs Shut Down
- May 26** Memorial Day
- June Child Vision Awareness Month**
- June 6** National Hunger Awareness Day
- June 9** Clubs Reopen for Summer Program
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 15** Father's Day

Find the words that have been hidden in the grid, then read an affectionate name for another family member!

B N I E C E R R
 R E U N C L E F
 O P R G R T H A
 T H T E H A T T
 H E N G T S O H
 E W U N O S M E
 R A A N N Y I R
 D N I S U O C S

- Aunt
- Brother
- Cousin
- Father
- Mother
- Nephew



John Diederich, of Chase Bank visits East Chicago Katherine House to speak with "Making the Grade", participants.

All 2007-2008 Youth of the Year Candidates (YOY) pictured with judges.



Gary Youth Baseball (GYB) opening day Saturday, April 26, 2008.



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The Positive Place For Kids

Main Events

Cedar Lake Club Members Advance to National Fine Arts Competition



Julie Brown, 10
Southwestern Vase
Sculpture Category

Four Cedar Lake Boys & Girls Club members will have their artwork advance to Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts Competition. The youth recently entered BGCA's 2008 Midwest Regional Fine Arts competition and were selected to advance out of 530 pieces on display. Only 37 pieces were chosen to advance to the National competition.

Artwork is judged in several medium categories. Julie Brown age 10 was chosen as a winner in the sculpture category for her Southwestern Vase. Lisa Ferry, age 11, was chosen in the monochromatic category for her piece entitled The House. Jaime Koepl, age 15 was chosen in printmaking category for her piece entitled Field of Flowers and Ashley Winters, age 18, was chosen in the Mixed Media Category for her piece entitled Earth, Fire, Water, Air.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts program encourages expressions among Club members ages 6-18 through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture. Club members entering their artwork during regional competitions have opportunities to have their artwork displayed at many Boys & Girls Clubs of America's national events.

Judging for the National Fine Arts competition is scheduled to take place in late May or early June.



Lisa Ferry, 11
The House
Monochromatic Drawing



Ashley Winters, 18
Earth, Fire, Water, Air
Mixed Media Category



Jaime Koepl, 15
Fields of Flowers
Print Making Category