

# Bridge To The Future

by the members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities

## Dear Friends,

We have joined in a tremendous effort. It is an effort which will change the future of our community. Most importantly, it will impact the lives of children and teens living in the Twin Cities today and in the future, especially those in the inner city.

We believe an investment in the Bridge To The Future Campaign for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities is an investment in our community and most importantly, in our young people, particularly the 14,000 that are served by our clubs.

Newly renovated clubhouses and exciting, expanded program opportunities are at the core of this Campaign. It is through these community-based clubhouses and daily programming that the true impact of the Campaign will be received. In the years to come, thousands of young people will build confidence, develop positive and healthy relationships, and learn life skills.



We have made our investment in this effort and seen firsthand the benefits of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. Now we ask you to do the same. Make a gift which will be life changing—for our young people, for our community and quite possibly, for yourself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al &amp; Kathy Lenzmeier".

Al & Kathy Lenzmeier  
Campaign Co-chairs





# Envision

Want to see the future? It's all around you — in the 6-year-old spinning himself dizzy, in those giggly 12-year-old girls walking through the mall, in that high school senior dreaming about everything that's yet to come.

The future is our kids. At the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, we're building the bridge to the future by providing safe, supportive and fun places for the kids to spend quality time.

We can't do it alone. With your help, we're out to make improvements and updates to 7 inner city clubs and the Voyageur Environmental Center, as well as increase program hours, offerings and staff development and training.

So, we invite you to read on. See for yourself how you can make a difference in the lives of today's youth. And, see it through the eyes of the boys and girls who created the following artwork to demonstrate how important it is that we all pitch in to build the *Bridge To The Future*.

# Inspire

## One mission

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities is simple: To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. We do this by serving more than 14,000 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18, at these 8 locations:

- Jack Cornelius Club, Minneapolis
- Jerry Gamble Club, Minneapolis
- Lincoln School Beacon Site, Minneapolis
- Southside Village, Minneapolis
- East Side Club, St. Paul
- West Side Club, St. Paul
- Mt. Airy Club, St. Paul
- Voyageur Environmental Center, Mound

It's the blueprint for the *Bridge To The Future*.



# Enrich

## Full Potential

As diverse as the kids who benefit from them, the activities offered at the Boys & Girls Clubs are designed to meet the interests of any and all club members. Based on physical, emotional, cultural and social needs and interests, we set out to engage, help develop self-esteem and provide the catalyst for members to reach their full potential through five core program areas:

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



## Character & Leadership Development

At the Boys & Girls Clubs, the goal is to help kids become responsible and caring citizens. By developing leadership skills and providing planning and decision-making opportunities, we're laying the foundation for a future of caring individuals filled with pride for their communities.

### Did You Know?

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell is a Boys & Girls Club Alumnus.

*"I'm going to be an FBI agent when I'm grown up because you get to arrest all the bad people out there."*

— Joseph, age 9



Encourage

## Education & Career Development

From Power Hour, a tutoring program for Club members ages 6–12, to CareerLaunch, a career and mentoring program for teens 13–18, we're out to help kids create aspirations for the future.

### Did you know?

In a recent survey, 71% of Club alumni rated career development as a "very important" Club activity. (Louis Harris & Associates)



*"When I grow up, I want to be a model and a pediatrician because I really like kids and I like helping people."*

— Jasmine, age 12



## Health & Life Skills

From safety awareness programs like Smart Moves, to prevention/education programs that address the tougher problems of drug and alcohol use, at the Boys & Girls Clubs we strive to help kids achieve and maintain healthy, active lifestyles.

### Did You Know?

In a recent survey, 65% of Club alumni said the Boys & Girls Club was the only place to go after school in their neighborhood. (Louis Harris & Associates)

*"I've learned things like how to stay on task. If I wasn't here playing basketball, I might be taking drugs or I'd probably be in a gang."*

— Jose, age 14



## The Arts

Whether it's worthy of the Louvre or fit to hang on a fridge, art is truly the outlet to self-expression. From the visual to the performing to the literary arts, we're providing kids with that creative outlet, at the same time helping to develop multicultural appreciation.

### Did You Know?

41% of Americans say that the arts are valuable because they educate the whole child. (Douglas Gould & Company)



*"When they hang my art projects up on the wall at the club, it makes me feel good because people can see how good I can draw. I can impress them."*

— Dontae, age 10



## Sports, Fitness & Recreation

From developing fitness to finding a positive use of leisure time and reducing stress, as well as by partnering with professional sports like Major League Baseball, we're able to provide kids with programs that help teach these important life skills.

### Did You Know?

If a girl doesn't participate in sports by the time she's 10, there's only a 10% chance she will when she is 25.

*"When I'm older, I want to be a basketball player because all of my sisters play basketball and they're really good, too."*

— Alexandria, age 10



Imagine

Aspire

# Strive

## One Goal

There's no more precious a resource to a community than its children. The hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow rest squarely on the small shoulders of today's kids. It's a big responsibility and that's why it's so vital that together, we help them realize those hopes and dreams.

Our goal: to provide the services and structure to today's kids' lives that will set them on the right path and help build the bridge to a bright future. With your help, we'll reach that goal by strengthening the following three areas:

- Capital Improvements
- Deepening Impact
- Endowment



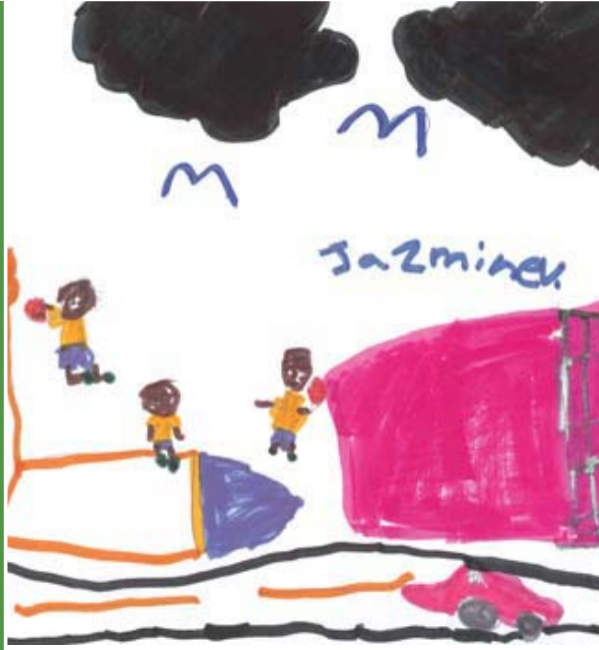
*"My favorite class is science. I learned that sometimes frogs eat other frogs and I learned about that plant that can eat flies."*

— Sam, age 7



*"If someone gave a million dollars, I'd use the money to make a building with a tennis court in it, a play street with play cars and a sidewalk where people could walk."*

— Jazmine, age 6



# Rejuvenate

## Capital Improvements

Think of a place. A safe place where learning and fun go hand in hand and caring for each other is the thought of the day. Every day.

That place is new and improved Boys & Girls Clubs in the neighborhoods with the most need within the Twin Cities.

But what exactly does that mean? It includes anything from new paint and carpeting at one of our older clubs to a sparkling new fieldhouse at our West Side Club. It's simply updates and renovations to all of our Twin Cities locations.

**It's the support that adds strength to the *Bridge To The Future*.**

# Nurture

## Deepening Impact

Imagine being a 6-year-old, home alone because mom works a second shift.  
Imagine being a 10-year-old, left to find your own recreation on the streets.  
Imagine being an 18-year-old, not having anyone you can talk to when you need it most.

Now, imagine life without those worries. Life where happiness, fun and enjoyment are the order of the day.

That's what Deepening Impact means. It's about creating that environment, as well as developing a strong sense of belonging among club members. And we can do it better than ever by increasing program hours and the assortment of program offerings, as well as providing more staff development and training.

It's the foundation for the *Bridge To The Future*.



*"At the club, I've learned not to be a follower. If someone's getting in trouble, don't follow them. Be responsible."*

— Ivy, age 14



*"When I grow up, my dream is  
to be a doctor who  
helps animals."*

— Yasmin, age 7



# Strengthen

## Endowment

Close your eyes and remember. Remember back to a time of youthful fantasy. Of big hopes and even bigger dreams. Of an unlimited future.

Your generosity gives life to that future by creating an Endowment that will provide scholarships, as well as guarantee operating funds in the years to come. In short, a strong endowment will give us more financial security in planning for tomorrow.

**It's the continued endurance and longevity of the *Bridge To The Future*.**

So now have you seen the future? Can you imagine it through the words of the members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities? Envision it in the colors and stories told within their beautiful drawings?

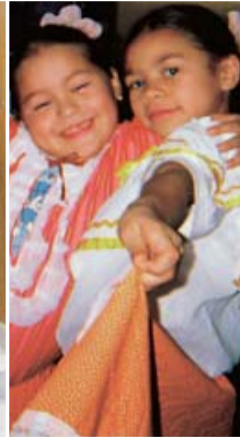
Together, we hold the blueprint that will build the bridge to that future, but it's your investment that will ensure it's a strong and stable one.

We need your help to give Alexandria a place to play basketball like her sisters, to give Jose a place free from the drugs and gang problems of the streets, and to give all those yet to come a place they can truly call their own. A place they call their neighborhood Boys & Girls Club.

Let's start building the *Bridge To The Future* today.

# Thanks

Thank you for your wonderful generosity.  
From the members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities.





For even more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities,  
visit our website at [www.boysandgirls.org](http://www.boysandgirls.org).

2575 University Avenue West, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55114 • 651-999-0600 • [www.boysandgirls.org](http://www.boysandgirls.org)