

# The Corner

A Place to Go...A Way to Grow.



## Mission Moment

Kyle has had a busy summer here learning and playing at GSBC! Diagnosed with a developmental disability, Kyle has not let anything stand in his way to learning, growing, and having a great time.

Rather than hanging out on the street where peers bully him, Kyle embraced his time at GSBC. He successfully completed his World Cup research project. The project was not the easiest for him, but he persevered with the help of one of GSBC's certified teachers. He profiled the Algerian team and created a poster that is proudly hanging on the wall of the Club!

Kyle has worked hard with Coach Reggie and can now score lay-ups and jump shots. As Kyle grew on the court and in the classroom, he has made some great friends!



Whether he's swinging on our brand new playground, taking swimming

lessons, feeding the chickens, or learning about worms in the garden, Kyle always has a smile on his face!

## Mission

*To enable boys in the St. Louis metropolitan area, especially those who need us most, to realize their physical, intellectual, and emotional potential.*

## 22nd Annual Golf Classic

# A SUCCESS



The Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis hosted its 22nd Annual Golf Classic on May 27th. Over 225 golfers came out and raised more than \$375,000 (gross) to support GSBC's work to empower its members to reach their potential and break the cycle of poverty. This year, we held our first ever Fund-A-Need and raised more than \$50,000! Without this event, GSBC would not be able to provide the high quality and holistic programs that are its trademark. We would like to thank all of our sponsors:

Tournament Sponsors: Brenner Tank, Dave Mungenast Automotive Family, First Bank, Gene & Joan Slay Charitable Foundation, Nestle' Purina PetCare, Polar Tank Trailer, Slay Industries, Superior Building Systems

President's Club Sponsors: Husch Blackwell, Ralph McIngvale, Ryder Truck Rental, Truck Centers, Union Pacific

Pal Sponsors: AT&T, John Fabick Tractor Company, Tank Trailer Cleaning, Inc.

Gold Sponsors: Anders CPAs + Advisers, Huntleigh McGehee, Millstone Weber, Stifel Nicolaus, ULLICO Management Company, URS

Bronze Sponsors: Bank of O'Fallon (2), City Lighting Products, Eason Law Firm, FISHCO Group, HR Green Co., Intaglio Creative, Novus International, Inc., Restoration St. Louis, West County Nissan

Thanks for a great tournament! We can't wait for next year! Hope to see you on May 26th, 2015! ■



## Video

During our 85-year history, the Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis has touched the lives of thousands of young people. We recently created a video showing the impact that the Club has on the lives of its members. You can view it at [www.gsbctl.org/who-we-are/](http://www.gsbctl.org/who-we-are/) or by scanning here. ■



# A Message from THE DIRECTORS

Hello Friends,

Much has happened here in the last quarter on top of our KaBOOM! project and Annual Golf Classic. We, as the leadership team, are preparing the Club and our members for the future. We continue to strategize with community leaders to develop approaches that keep kids in South St. Louis safe and prepare them for a promising future. While Tom coordinated another extremely successful Golf Classic, Bob and Prescott participated in community meetings with Washington University and Saint Louis University as they produced a multi-disciplinary report detailing the health and well-being of African-Americans in our region, *For the Sake of All*. You can view the report for yourself at <http://forthesakeofall.org/>.

Prescott and Bob continue to embrace their leadership roles at the Club and in the community. They both recently attended roundtables to help develop St. Louis' new Consolidated Plan to ensure that youth services are included. In April, Prescott presented on the current obstacles to teens gaining needed work experience at the Summit on Youth Employment, which was sponsored by the Incarnate Word Foundation and the Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis.

With measured growth guided by the current five year strategic plan and unwavering Board support, the GSBC leadership team is setting the course for the next generation of youth to become St. Louis' leaders.

Thank you to all of our extremely generous supporters who make this possible.

Sincerely,

*Tom Wild* *Prescott* *Robert Russell*

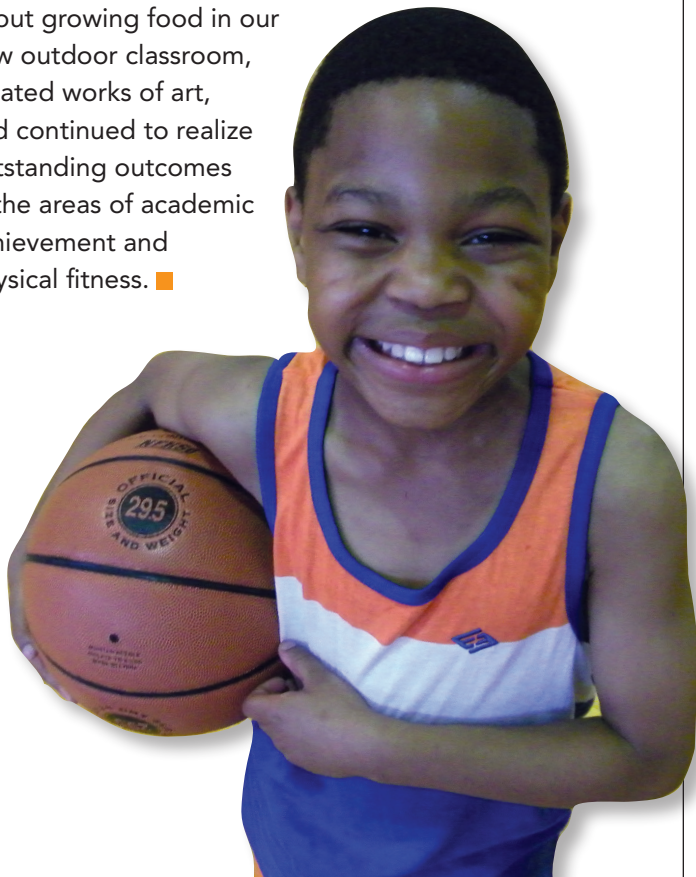
Tom, Prescott, & Bob



## Summer PROGRAM

This summer, more than 200 kids participated in GSBC's Summer Program, and GSBC provided needed job readiness training and employment experience to 17 at-risk teens through STL Youth Jobs. GSBC focuses on creating a fun atmosphere while alleviating and negating the summer learning loss, which occurs when youth do not engage in academically enriching activities in the summer. More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.

This year's Summer Program revolved around the World Cup. Youth researched the participating countries and created presentations around them, followed and tracked the results using math and statistics, and even honed their own fútbol skills with games and clinics. In addition, members learned about growing food in our new outdoor classroom, created works of art, and continued to realize outstanding outcomes in the areas of academic achievement and physical fitness. ■



# KABOOM! and MetLife Foundation Build Playground for GSBC

On June 28th, more than 250 volunteers converged on GSBC's back field to build a dynamic playground, outdoor classroom, and a wheelchair accessible path that is almost 500 feet long. The project was coordinated by KaBOOM!, the national non-profit dedicated to ensuring that all kids have access to playspaces that allow their minds and bodies to grow. MetLife Foundation provided the majority of the funds and volunteer-power to make this member-designed playspace a reality. But this was more than just building a playground. "It showed that if you can dream it, if you can imagine it, and if you bring the community together... you can do it," said Mark Donnelly, a Build Day co-captain from MetLife.



Build Day was the culmination of a three-month design process where volunteers from MetLife Foundation, the Club, Soulard Restoration Group, and local community members worked together to solicit donations of food, equipment, and volunteers. Thanks to GSBC Board Member, Ed Finkelstein, Local 513 Operating Engineers Training Program generously donated the labor and equipment needed to prepare the site for volunteers. GSBC Board Member John Fabick and the John Fabick Tractor Company generously provided equipment as well. Local 513 Apprentice Coordinator, Tim Sappington said,

"Helping is part of our union's community responsibility."

The event was a huge success, with KSDK and KTRS each airing stories about it. Assisting with kick-off, and even dancing with Snoopy, were Mayor Francis Slay, GSBC Executive Vice President Jill Slay Garlich, and Aldermen Phyllis Young, Craig Schmid, and Ken Ortmann. GSBC Board Member James Eason got in on the fun and swung a hammer for the cause. GSBC President Andy Blassie thanked all the volunteers and State Senator Jamilah Nasheed presented a proclamation from the Missouri Senate honoring the community effort and cut the ribbon to open the playground officially.

We would like to thank all the businesses who supported this tremendous endeavor: AmeriCorps St. Louis, Anheuser-Busch Credit Union, Blues City Deli, Benton Park Café, D's Place, Epic Pizza & Subs, Frazer's Restaurant, Gateway Greening, Great Grizzly Bear, Jimmy John's, Joanie's Pizza, McGurk's Pub, Molly's Bar & Lounge, Nadine's Gin Joint, Patty Long's Catering, Riverbend Restaurant, Ross Watson, St. Louis Bread Company, Trueman's Place for Steaks, Tucker's Place, Vincent's Market.

We knew our community would rally to support our members! ■



### Memorials/Honoraria

Memorial and Honorarium gifts are a great way to honor the memory of loved ones and celebrate the special occasions in your lives while supporting the next generation of Club members.

#### Memorials:

Albert Ackfeld	Charles Larry Myers
John Bardgett	Hazel Rieber
Joseph Blassie	Bill Salz
Jack Cronin	Alex Scherzer
Larry Howard	Mike Schimmer
Juanita Kukay	Gene Slay
Dave Mungenast	Ken Wild

#### In Honor Of:

Charlie Nash  
Jane Nix's Birthday  
Guy Slay

## PILLAR SOCIETY

GSBC is unveiling a brand new annual giving society, the Pillar Society, to show our sincere appreciation for our fantastic donors. The Pillar Society represents the Six Pillars of Character that all of our youth strive to develop through each of GSBC's programs: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship. Check out [www.gsbctl.org/pillar-society/](http://www.gsbctl.org/pillar-society/). ■





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## The Newsletter for Gene Slay's Boys' Club | SUMMER 2014

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Margaret J. Walsh *Director*

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Max Nall  
Michael Weisbrod  
Allison Williams

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Tom Wild

#### Director of Programs:

Prescott Benson

#### Director of Development:

Robert Puricelli

### In Our Corner

#### Andy Blassie & Bank of O'Fallon

Bank of O'Fallon, located in O'Fallon, IL, has been a dedicated friend of GSBC for many years. They have sponsored our Annual Golf Classic for all 22 years it has been in existence! They always help make it a fun event! Bank of O'Fallon was introduced to the Club's mission by their Executive Vice-President, Andy Blassie.

Andy is an alumnus of the Club. Andy attended the Club in the 1960s and '70s and was more likely to be found at our facility than anywhere else. Andy played on GSBC's competitive baseball and basketball teams. Andy's brother Mark also attended with him, and his parents Joseph and Barbara were fixtures in the stands at all of Andy's games and Boys' Club activities. This year marks Andy's 50th year of involvement in the Club, joining as a member in 1964 at age nine.

As he grew into a successful businessman, Andy never forgot his roots. While at Wetterau Incorporated as a senior financial executive, Andy was asked to join the Board of Directors in 1990 and has provided instrumental leadership and direction to the Club ever since. Andy became the President of the Board of Directors of GSBC in 2012. Andy gives countless hours to the Club. Whether it's going over the Club's financials with a fine-toothed comb, recruiting new Board Members, or putting together our next strategic plan, you can bet that Andy will give everything he can to make it a success.

Thanks Andy and Bank of O'Fallon! ■



Helping people.



An MO DHSS Licensed  
Child Care Center  
- After School Care