

The Corner

A Place to Go...A Way to Grow



Mission Moment

When Denise, a GSBC member through a Girls Pilot Program, began art class she did not think that she would enjoy art. She frequently got frustrated at her slow progress and lost focus easily. Nelson Perez, GSBC's professional art teacher, needed to talk to her on several occasions about her rowdy behavior.

After a few weeks, Nelson introduced an art project where members demonstrated what the Club means to them. After working one on one with Nelson, Denise was really proud of what she had created and realized that she really enjoys art. Denise has been returning to art class with enthusiasm and focus.



Once Denise discovered her inner artist, she began following instructions, being respectful,

and getting along with her fellow members. She is proud of her work and has been an excellent role model for her younger brother as he makes great strides in art.

Art Room

RENOVATION



In 2013, GSBC's Board of Directors made a strategic investment to renovate our Art Room. GSBC broke ground in February and the new Art Room will be open this spring. The renovation has transformed an existing classroom into a bright, colorful, and light-filled space for children to get their hands dirty with a variety of art projects and

get their minds stimulated by the latest art-based technology. New flooring, walls, lighting, and artwork displays bring the space up to a level that is not only clean and bright, but also durable enough for our members to enjoy it for years to come.

We have hired a Missouri Certified Art Teacher to make this a space where GSBC can empower children to realize their creative potential in an alternative learning environment. U.S. Department of Education reports show that involvement in the Arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. Furthermore, Arts learning can improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. By engaging in the Arts, at-risk youth develop attitudes and skills that are crucial in escaping the cycle of poverty and violence, in which many members and their families are struggling.

We are really proud of how the space looks and the kinds of programs that we are now able to offer. Come by the Club and see for yourself! ■



Mission

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

Take a Tour!

We welcome everyone to come and take a tour of our facility and programs to see for yourself the outcomes we have been able to achieve, and the potential for making even greater impacts in the lives of our members. Even if you've visited the Club recently, you will definitely want to see the new Art Room! ■



A Message from THE DIRECTOR

Hello Friends,

The Club continues to grow its programs and move forward! Between the transformation taking place in the Art Room, entering into a contract with the City to expand our services in Dutchtown, and implementing new programs, there has been a lot going on around the Club. Even Santa made time in his busy schedule to make an appearance at the Club!

Also, 2014 is the Club's 85th Anniversary! 85 years ago, Fr. Charles Maxwell began the Club's journey of working with the youth of St. Louis and evolving to empower each generation to reach their potential. Anniversaries provide a great opportunity for us to look back and thank all of the people who have made it possible for the Club to grow. To name a few, thanks to the Gene and Joan Slay Charitable Foundation, the United Way of Greater St. Louis, the Mungenast Automotive Family, Slay Industries, Incarnate Word Foundation, Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis, First Bank, Truck Centers, Brenner Tank, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Polar Tank, Nestle Purina, and everyone who has supported us over the years. All of the achievements of our members over the past 85 years would not be possible without the leadership and support of so many people.

The future is too exciting! Our Healthy Lifestyles Program is making some huge progress. The Club will become a rotation site for Saint Louis University Medical School's Department of Pediatrics. SLU Department of Pediatrics will provide residents who design and present their own curricula to supplement GSBC's Healthy Lifestyles curriculum. Also to increase our members' access to health services, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center Chief Medical Officer, Dr. John Peter, has joined GSBC's Board of Directors. Welcome John!

Whether you've been supporting our members for 85 years or 85 days, join us as our members take steps to achieving their dreams for another 85 years!

Sincerely,
Tom Wild
Tom Wild



Corporate Match

With corporate matching gifts, you can empower even more members to reach their potential! Many companies will double or even triple your gift to the Gene Slay's Boys' Club of St. Louis by matching your contribution dollar for dollar. Companies will often match the gifts of retirees as well. Included in this edition of The Corner is a list of corporations that offer matching gifts programs. Contact your human resources department to increase the impact of your gift on St. Louis' youth. ■

College students bring STEM to life



This past fall, the Club expanded its programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The Club offered Choice, Control, and Change (C3) and a Robotics Class for the first time.

Volunteers Dani Schroeder, Abi Lowe, and Erin Gragg from Saint Louis University's Department of Nutrition and Dietetics taught C3. C3 is curriculum designed by Columbia University's Teacher's College to engage youth in hands-on investigations of our food system and how to use scientific evidence to make healthy food and activity choices. They performed scientific experiments and used the conclusions from those experiments to learn about making healthy food choices. Our young

scientists especially enjoyed experimenting to see how difficult it is to maintain equilibrium. By observing the flow of water through cups with different sizes and numbers of holes, they learned how we need to match our energy intake to our energy expenditure. If we spend less energy (like the cups with smaller water holes), we need to eat less.

Pioneering our new Robotics Class were Zlatan Zeba, a part-time Youth Development Specialist from Webster University, and Michael Sophir, AmeriCorps VISTA member. Using a customizable solar-powered robot kit, members designed and built their own robots. Some built their robots for speed, where others aimed for complexity. At the end of the eight-week course, they brought their creations outside and tested them on the racetrack (check out some video of the races at youtube.com/geneslaysboysclub).

Who knows? Maybe the next great innovator is currently being inspired at the club. ■

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
- John Bardgett
- Larry Howard
- Juanita Kukay
- Donald Levin
- Dave Mungenast, Sr.
- Hazel Rieber
- Bill Salz
- Alex Scherzer
- Gene Slay
- Ken Wild

In Honor Of:

- Adeline Cronin's 90th Birthday
- Charlie Nash

Program Growth

The Club has just been awarded a contract with the City of St. Louis to provide transportation to increase youth in St. Louis' Dutchtown neighborhood's access to our program. According to the 25th Ward Community Liaison, 36% of the population of Dutchtown is 18 years old or younger. Despite this high percentage of youth, there is a scarcity of targeted, quality after school and summer youth programming in these neighborhoods. Alderman Schmid of the 20th Ward agrees, "youth from these neighborhoods need after-school programming and GSBC would be a perfect fit."

The Club has hired a bus driver who will be responsible for transporting youth. We would like to thank Alderman Craig Schmid and Alderwoman Phyllis Young, 3rd District Police Captain Daniel Howard, Project Grant Director Laura Novarra, 25th Ward Community Liaison Tonya Dean, and Missouri State Senator Jamilah Nasheed for their efforts. ■





2524 South Eleventh St.
St. Louis, MO 63104
314-772-5661

The Newsletter for Gene Slay's Boys' Club | SPRING 2014

Board of Directors

Gary E. Slay *Chairman of the Board*
Andrew P. Blassie *President*
Jill Slay Garlich *Executive Vice President*
Joseph T. Ambrose *Vice President*
John H. Purnell *Vice President*
Brian E. Ulione *Vice President*
Raymond J. Mungenast *Secretary*
John R. Sondag *Treasurer*

Ken Berresheim *Director*
James W. Eason *Director*
John Fabick IV *Director*
D'Marco Farr *Director*
Edward M. Finkelstein *Director*
Anthony E. (Tony) Gordon *Director*
Col. Leonard L. Griggs Jr. *Director*
Charles Karam *Director*
Judith King *Director*
Gary J. Prindiville Sr. *Director*
Richard A. Voytas, Jr., Esq. *Director*
Margaret J. Walsh *Director*

Honorary Life Directors:

Honorable Paul J. Simon

Executive Director:

Tom K. Wild

Advisory Council:

Betty Brucker, FSM
Max Nall
Michael Weisbrod
Allison Williams

In Our Corner

First Bank & The Dierberg Family

The Dierberg Family and First Bank have been generous partners of GSBC for many years. They have sponsored GSBC's Annual Golf Classic for more than a decade. Their generosity has made GSBC's educational efforts and building improvements possible.

First Bank was initially drawn to the Club's mission of helping youth in South City. They see the importance of investing in youth and providing them with a safe place to go after school.

They have also provided invaluable leadership to the Club. Joe Ambrose, the Midwest Regional President, serves on the Executive Committee of GSBC's Board of Directors, and Michael Weisbrod, a Senior Vice President in the Wealth Management Group, serves on GSBC's Development Committee. Joe and Michael are incredibly passionate about the investment the Club has made to provide for more of the educational and social development needs of our members.

Dedication to our members and their families and the spirit of giving spans the entire First Bank family. Employees of the Wealth Management Department "adopted" a GSBC family for the holidays in 2013. They provided a memorable Christmas morning to the family. They even gave new winter clothes, which were essential in this year's chilly winter! ■



Helping people.



An MO DHSS Licensed Child Care Center
- After School Care