



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF ROCHESTER INC.**

HOURS

Monday - Friday

2:30 - 8 PM*

Saturday

10 AM - 4 PM*

*Hours vary during holidays

MAIN FACILITY

500 Genesee Street
Rochester, NY 14611

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Rochester City School 29
88 Kirkland Road
Rochester, NY 14611

Rochester City School 45
1445 Clifford Ave.
Rochester, NY 14621

Industry Residential Center
375 Rush-Scottsville Road
Rush, NY 14543

BOWL-A-THON

with Sutherland

ACCELERATING IN READING

Reading Levels
to New Heights

PLAYGROUND FUN!

A Sunny 65-degree
Day in February

2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Robert Miller

ART CORNER

Sharing with
Our Community



BGCROchester.org/Join-The-Club

**SPRING 2017
ISSUE #5**

ACCELERATING IN READING



Members Take Reading Levels to New Heights



When Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester members walk through our doors at 500 Genesee St. they know reading will be part of their Club experience. Reading brings lots of joy to Club members Taylor and Sumiyah, both 12 years old. The duo continues to surpass their reading goals, each reading almost two grades above the average reading level for their age group.

Accelerated Reading (AR) has been a part of the Rochester Club's programming for more than 10 years. A program inspired by the late V.J. Stanley, AR teaches phonics, reading comprehension and other critical literacy skills. The program is a web-based reading management system designed by Renaissance Learning Inc. to encourage growth in reading skills,

as well as nurture a genuine love of reading through daily reading practice. Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester are one of the few afterschool programs that implements AR in a non-school setting.

"I've always loved reading and being in AR allows me to improve my reading skills even more," said Taylor. "My favorite books are science fiction, fantasy, non-fiction and some fiction."

Utilizing the Renaissance Learning software, Club members are required to take a baseline test in the beginning of the school year, which determines their individual reading level and range. This gives staff the ability to provide books in the grade level where a participant is comfortable. ...continued inside...



Sutherland Bowls with Boys & Girls Clubs

We held our annual Bowl-A-Thon with Sutherland employees April 2 at Dewey Garden Lanes. The 3rd annual event was held to show our appreciation for the longtime support we've received from Sutherland. It brought close to 100 of its employees together for the afternoon. Boys & Girls Clubs members and staff also participated in the fun.

A 50/50 raffle and giveaway of several raffle items, donated by generous Club supporters including Buffalo Wild Wings, LongHorn Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Cheesy Eddie's, Hedonist Artisan

Chocolates, Indus Hospitality Group, Clubhouse Fun Center and more, helped raise more than \$500 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester.

Sutherland's support can also be seen at the main 500 Genesee St. facility outside of the Digital Center, a new program area funded by the company.

Thank you to everyone at Sutherland for their continuous support of the Boys & Girls Clubs' mission. We look forward to many more years of our partnership!



SAVE THE DATE



7th Annual Par-Tee for the Kids Golf Tournament

Save the date for our 7th annual Par-Tee for the Kids Golf Tournament at Locust Hill, Monday, August 7. Shotgun start will be at 12:30 PM



Congratulations to one of our very talented artists,

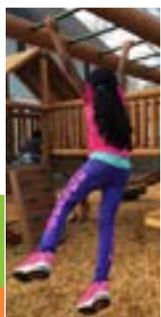
Alicia,
for getting into the School of the Arts!
WELL DONE!

Playground Fun!

A sunny 65-degree day in February gave Club members the perfect opportunity to break in our new playground from Bears Playground!

Generously funded by longtime Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester supporters Glover Crask Charitable Trust, the playground is one of the final installments of our newly renovated and expanded building.

Club members look forward to many more sunny days of climbing, swinging and sliding.



BGRochester.org/Join-The-Club



Biddy Basketball League Teaches More than Ball Skills



For close to 30 years, young aspiring athletes have joined together on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester basketball court to participate in the Makeeba Barley Jr. Biddy Basketball League. When the youth development league first began it was primarily for 6 to 12 year olds, but the league was split in two sections after younger Club members expressed they wanted to have more playing time with kids their own age.

Made up of six junior varsity teams (ages 6 to 9) and six varsity teams (ages 10 to 12), the Biddy Basketball season runs from mid-May to late-June. The coaches, volunteers and referees are all former Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester members and Biddy Basketball players themselves, making their involvement especially meaningful.

After program registration, kids partake in three months of skill instruction, the teams are decided and then they are ready for the season to kick-off. A unique aspect of the league is the two names

displayed on the back of the Biddy jerseys – Makeeba Barley, Jr. and Trent Jackson, Sr.

Makeeba Barley, Jr. tragically lost his young life while walking to the Boys & Girls Club to play basketball. Kids continue to play in his memory and exemplify his passion for the sport.

Former Rochester basketball coach and world-class athlete Trent Jackson Sr.'s legacy and great character inspired the names of the JV Biddy Basketball teams. The JV teams are named after local high schools, including Wilson Magnet High School, East High School, Franklin High School and others. The Varsity team names follow that of area colleges, such as St. John Fisher, Brockport, Monroe Community College and more.

In addition to teaching basketball skills, such as dribbling, passing and the fundamentals of offense and defense, Biddy Basketball also teaches life skills. While learning to play as a team, Biddy players develop social skills, learn how to be leaders, build their self-esteem

and confidence and establish drive and responsibility.

The positive experience of playing in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester's Biddy Basketball league has encouraged many Club members to move forward with their love for the sport, leading some to go on to play at Division I colleges and universities and even declare for the NBA.

Biddy Basketball Coordinator Reggie Smith, a Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester employee and alumnus, recognizes the important impact the league has had on Rochester and its youth. "Biddy has a rich history," said Reggie. "So many of our program graduates, have come back and expressed what the league meant to them when they were growing up and how it helped their love for basketball grow."

Biddy Basketball games are played at our 500 Genesee St. location Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, with the first game usually starting at 6 p.m.

ACCELERATING IN READING: Members Take Reading Levels to New Heights

continued from front page: After kids read a book that corresponds to their reading level, they then take a comprehension quiz. They must score a pre-determined percentage before moving on to another book, and eventually a higher reading level. Accelerated Reading is also an incentive-based program. Members look forward to picking out different prizes once they reach different increments of books read, i.e – 10, 15, 20, 25 total books.

Data is continuously collected and recorded by the Renaissance Learning software and staff. Not only are members able to track their daily accomplishments and how they're coming along with their personal reading goals, but data also provides AR staff with critical insight into whether students are able to transfer reading skills and comprehend the material and what areas they may need extra support in.

"While volunteering with the reading program at the Boys & Girls Club, my wife and I have witnessed first-hand the empowerment that comes when a child learns to read," said Alex Mueller, AR volunteer. "It is truly inspiring to see the progress being made by members from week to week. The opportunity to volunteer at the club and help foster a positive learning environment for our local youth has been an incredibly rewarding experience."

So far, from October 2016 to April 2017, more than 11,500 books have been read in the AR room.

By consistently reading at least six books per week, participants are working hard to increase their reading skill levels and develop a love of reading. Annually, close to 80 percent of program participants will improve their reading by a 1.5 grade level.

"Many kids our age take reading for granted," said Sumiyah. "Reading gets you further in school and helps you succeed in life. You can get lost in a book; it takes you to a different world."

All of our AR participants' efforts are celebrated in June with a Homework and Reading Award Night. The top readers receive prizes, often including passes to local amusement parks and more. Reading doesn't stop at the end of the school year, however. The foundational skill is continued throughout the summer, a period often referred to as the "summer slide," when many students lose up to two months of literacy development, especially in poverty-stricken environments. AR works to combat this, and does so successfully

Thank you to all of our AR volunteers and supporters, especially The United Way of Greater Rochester, The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, and Senator Ranzenhofer's office. Your support, in time and funding, make the success of this program possible and increases our members' self-confidence and self-esteem, helping them excel and work toward great futures!

Club Members
Share Artistic Talents
with Rochester
Community

Art Corner



March was National Youth Art Month. March 3 kicked off the second annual month-long art exhibit for talented artists and members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester. Held at The Hungerford building as part of First Friday and Second Saturday – monthly events that encourage collaboration between Rochester artists – the art show featured close to 40 pieces from more than 10 different Club members.

Guests included Boys & Girls Clubs supporters, Club members and their parents, as well as many art lovers from

the community who were exposed to the talents of our Club members for the first time.

Being able to display their pieces in an official exhibit for the public, and others who have a passion for art, always gives the young artists a great sense of pride. Several of the artists participated in "Artist Talks" on Saturday, March 11, where they sat on a panel and spoke about their different pieces, what mediums they used and what inspired them.

"They've accomplished so much and have made great

progress with their pieces," said Sarah Hwang, art program director at Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester. "The amount of joy they get from talking about their work and sharing it with people in the same craft is huge. They deserve these moments."

Showcasing members' art around the community also allows members to get a feel for entrepreneurship and how their talents can lead to a career in art. More than 10 pieces were sold at the First Friday showcase!



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500 Genesee Street
Rochester, NY 14611

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SAVE THE DATE

*7th Annual Par-Tee
for the Kids Golf
Tournament*

AUGUST 7TH

[See Inside for Details]



Robert Miller, a junior at the Rochester Academy Charter School, credits the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester for helping him grow into who he is today. His leadership skills, good grades and well-rounded personality, recently earned him the Western New York (WNY) Youth of the Year title. Last year's Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester Youth of the Year was also a WNY winner. In addition to being recognized regionally, Robert also received a scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club members. Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the National Youth of the Year who serves as both an exemplary ambassador for Boys & Girls Clubs youth and is a voice for youth across the nation.

Robert joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester in 2012 after his friends told him about the different programs they were enjoying as members.

"I needed a place to go after school and it was close to home, affordable and provided a lot of structure and development programs kids need as they're growing up," said Robert. "The staff feel like a second family. They're always checking in and showing they care."

One of the programs Robert found most beneficial was homework help. He would come to the Club and go right to the homework room. Mr. Smith, the Club's education coordinator, not only helped Robert with his studies, but he looked to him as a life mentor as well.

"Mr. Smith continues to help me make sure I am prepared for my future in college and my career and gives me great advice on life and conflict resolution."

When Robert wasn't busy working on his school work, one could find him honing his skills on the basketball court or in the Sweet Dancerz' dance studio. Basketball and hip-hop dance have always been passions of Roberts.

Robert feels empowered and free on the basketball court and dance floor. The activities give him ownership, self-pride, and allow his creativity and different talents to shine.

One of Robert's other great passions is fashion. Bullied for some of the things he chose to wear in school, Robert decided to take ownership of his style and be proud of what made him unique. As part of his Youth of the Year responsibilities, Robert has to create and execute a project that exemplifies his personal brand. Robert's project centers around creating and producing affordable bowties that young men can wear

in a professional setting to help them on the path to success.

After high school graduation Robert hopes to either attend a SUNY college or the Fashion Institute of Technology.

"I am proud to be chosen as the Western New York Youth of the Year and to represent our Rochester Club," said Robert. "It means a lot to be given this opportunity and I hope to set an example and make them proud."

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by Disney, who has supported BGCA for more than 50 years, empowering young people to reach their full potential and providing youth with access to the tools they need to build the great futures they imagine. Toyota, the Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, is committed to helping improve the quality of life in our communities, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring youth have access to a quality education. Additional support is provided by University of Phoenix, a national education partner that has joined with BGCA to impact academic success among youth across the country, and the Taco Bell Foundation, BGCA's premier partner for teen empowerment. **For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit www.youthoftheyear.org.**