

Your Club Connection



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EAST AURORA

24 Paine Street • East Aurora, NY 14052 • 652.4180

\$25,000 CHALLENGE!

...a letter from Gary Schutrum, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

There are reasons we East Aurorans sing our town's praises to anyone who will listen. The #1 school district. A charming, walkable village. Great shops and eateries. The family-centered atmosphere.

It's perfect – we tell friends and family who don't live here.

Except, of course, that nothing is perfect. For every top student in East Aurora, there's another one struggling. For every kid with "all the advantages," there's another from a family trying to overcome a job loss, divorce, or health problem. For every confident, well-adjusted child, there's one being bullied.

The Boys & Girls Club is here for all the kids of East Aurora and West Falls: the "A" students, the struggling students, the kids on the social fringe. Inside Club walls, it doesn't matter if kids are rich, poor, an athlete or an introvert. All club members are safe, part of the club family, and treated with dignity.

Giving every club member the confidence to believe they have the chance to succeed – no matter what their circumstances – is our mission.

Today, we have a rare and unusual opportunity to come together as a community. A generous Alumnus has offered a challenge gift of \$25,000. If we raise \$25,000 in new monies by January 31st, the donor will match with \$25,000. That means for every new dollar donated to the Club, they will match it with one of his own.

Offers like these don't come along every day. It is especially valuable right now, as we work to bridge the funding gap created by the loss of United Way funds this year. More importantly, it will help us continue to support all the kids of East Aurora, giving them a place to land softly, to grow and mature; to be there in the event no one else is.

Please consider supporting this limited-time fundraising drive. With your donation, we can continue to nurture our community's citizens of tomorrow – helping sustain the very special nature of the town we all love so much.

- Gary Schutrum

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you currently give, any donation above your annual total will be used towards the challenge. So if you donated \$50 last year and \$75 this year, \$25 of your gift will be counted towards the challenge. If you are a brand new donor to our Club, your entire donation will be used towards the challenge.

Thank You For Supporting Our 2017 Fundraisers:

With your help, we raised \$275,600 for Teens, Technology & Training!



Chowder Cup 2017

July 31st was a beautiful day for our annual golf tournament at East Aurora Country Club. Thank you to the 136 golfers who **raised \$36,000** to support programming for our kids!

We would also like to thank our Lead Sponsor **A.W. Miller Technologies!**

100 Holes of Golf

On June 2nd, golfers took on the challenge of finishing 100 holes at Holiday Valley Country Club and **raised \$54,600!** Most of these golfers were Club alumni, some traveling many miles to participate. Thank you for supporting our members!

2017 Great Futures Campaign

With your support, we raised \$185,000 for youth programming. Thank you for your help!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EAST AURORA	
Donations \$20.00	
February 1, Thursday	\$200
February 2, Friday	\$200
February 3, Saturday	\$200
February 4, Sunday	\$200
February 5, Monday	\$200
February 6, Tuesday	\$200
February 7, Wednesday	\$200
February 8, Thursday	\$200
February 9, Friday	\$200
February 10, Saturday	\$200
February 11, Sunday	\$200
February 12, Monday	\$200
February 13, Tuesday	\$200
February 14, Wednesday	\$200

February Lottery Raffle

Begins February 1st and tickets are \$20 each

Based on the NYS evening lottery drawing.

Questions? Contact Lori Stein, LStein@bgcea.org



SAVE THE DATE

Chowder Cup 2018

July 30, 2018

EAST AURORA COUNTRY CLUB

"Bid for Kids" Auction

One of our most popular fundraisers is back!

October 20, 2018

Watch for more details coming soon!

SUPPORT OUR GREAT FUTURES CAMPAIGN FOR KIDS

Make an Individual gift to support club programs and services. The Club needs to raise \$200,000 in individual giving each year to meet our annual operating needs and truly make a difference in the lives of the youth that we serve.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Consider joining the Alumni & Friends Club!

We consist of Club Alumni, Parents, Staff and Friends of the Club who want to ensure that the kids today, and for generations to come, get the same impact, opportunity and memories that benefitted us in our lives!

Look for your membership renewal in January, 2018!

For more info on these events, please go to our website www.bgcea.org or check us out on facebook!

Latest info - on the web at www.bgcea.org

Like us on Facebook



Helping Those Who Need Us The Most...



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EAST AURORA

At the Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora, our goal is to provide every child with a Great Future. And with your support, we can continue to help the children who need us the most. Two children in particular who were greatly impacted by our programs and services are Morgan and Autumn.

Last year, Morgan and Autumn were referred to our after-school programming. Both of the girls attended Parkdale Elementary School. Their parents recently divorced and the children were struggling with all of the changes going on in their family. Morgan and Autumn had trouble making friends and often felt angry, sad, and crying for no reason. They found themselves acting out their emotions by hitting their friends and classmates.

Following the divorce, Morgan and Autumn lived with their father. Because of the transition, the girls found themselves 6 weeks behind with their school work. Morgan and Autumn were recommended to our Boys & Girls Club by their teacher. She requested a staff person individually assist the girls every day.

This is how we helped...

We immediately began assisting the girls with their homework by referring them to Power Hour, SMART Moves and Project Learn. Morgan and Autumn were shy, in need of clothing, and toiletries. The Club staff saw the need and gave the children appropriate clothing, gift cards at Thanksgiving, Christmas dinner, and gifts for the family. The girls both attend camp and have enjoyed everything the club has to offer.

Because of your financial support, our Club has been one of the biggest assets for both of these girls. Its people like you that make it possible for Morgan and Autumn and other children to have a safe place to call their own that is open during their leisure time.

New Grant Opportunities

Through funding provided by Boys & Girls Club of America and America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses, the Club hosted vision screening tests for members.

38 children received an eye exam and 20 received free eyeglasses.



The Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora would like to say thank you to the **Buffalo Bills Foundation!** By increasing their support, members participated in a Club Flag Football League, met with Buffalo Bills rookies, and competed in a WNY tournament at the Ralph C. Wilson Fieldhouse with 7 other Boys & Girls Clubs. **Thank you to the Buffalo Bills Foundation for their support!**



Program Highlights

Of the 1,400 children who joined our Club this year, many enjoyed the following programming highlights...

During the school year...

Athletics: Keeping children physically active for at least **60 minutes a day.**

Education: **300 participating members** either maintained or improved their academic performance.

Arts: Our new Music Room introduced members to the world of music through **instruments and singing.**

Good Character: Mentoring programs teach children the importance of **living a life with good character and citizenship.**

Teens: We served more teens, more often with programming such as **Monday Night Flag Football, Wednesday Trivia Nights and Friday 5th Quarter events.**

Leadership: With our strengthened **Torch and Keystone Clubs,** teen members were able to attend the national Keystone Conference for the second year in a row!



A Fun Summer For Our Kids...

This summer, members attended fun activities at **Camp Ska-No-Ka-San, School-Age Child Care Program middle school and high school Basketball Camps** and teen events such as **Adventure Camp to Algonquin Park in Canada.**

THANK YOU **Erie County Youth Bureau** for supporting these programs!

Programming Staff Updates



Gail Baister
Arts & Crafts Room
Director

After working in our School-Age program, **Gail Baister** has returned as the Director of the **Arts & Crafts Room.** Her focus is on teaching members about modern artists like Frida Kahlo. She has also scheduled field trips to the Albright Knox Art Gallery and Lancaster Opera House.



Gavin Griffin
Teen Director

This fall, **Gavin Griffin** was named our **new Teen Director.** An Alumni of the Club, Gavin was hired three years ago and has been running effective after-school programming. He will now lead all teen activities with the goal of serving more teens more often!