

# upcoming club events!

## Have you heard about our \$15,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE?

We are extremely fortunate to have an anonymous donor willing to match all donations dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000. Funding will be used to keep kids engaged in sports programming throughout the school year. Every gift matters, and every dollar keeps kids active while having fun.

Go to <https://www.bgcea.org/giving-tuesday.html> to donate today. Thank you for your support!

## Alumni Day at Camp Ska-No-Ka-San Summer 2020

Relive your childhood summer at Camp. Participate in Counsel Fires, take a hike, or paddle a canoe.

Look for more details on Facebook!



# Because of YOU!

2019 was a great year! Thanks to the overwhelming support from donors like you, we were able to:

- **Enhance the Mentoring Matters program** that builds one-on-one relationships with staff and teaches youth positive choices.
- **Increase Be There: Ready, Set, Action!** an emotional skill-building program for children from families who experienced death, divorce, deployment or financial displacement.
- **Implement a Six-Step Safety Plan** to maintain a safe, fun environment where kids can pursue academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.
- **Create a new Art program** specifically for Middle School students to allow youth to create and express themselves.
- Add **new social recreation activities** in the Games Room.

**THANK YOU** for supporting our youth and being a difference maker!



# club connection

WINTER 2019 EDITION

## We Are Expanding Our Services Grant brings new opportunities to youth...

The Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora has expanded services to all members thanks to funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, KeyBank Foundation, and First Niagara Foundation. Our Club was part of a collaborative grant with all WNY Boys & Girls Clubs. The funding from this grant will support a five-year plan focusing on collaboration, capacity building and sustainability. For our Club, that means an expansion of our staff.

All Club members have been impacted by this expansion of services. Girls are receiving more specialized programming teaching empowerment, leadership, and self-confidence. Boys are getting the same high level of services encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving.

Funding is being used for three new full-time positions. Adam Wittmeyer has been hired as our full-time Social Recreation Director. Since Joseph 'Potts' Stapleton's retirement in 2009, the Club has attempted to fill his role with part-time staff. However, the responsibilities of this program area require a full-time employee. Adam will also help with managing the facility, and leading the Alumni & Friends Association, including running the AB Open. Also, Alexandra Eden has been hired as a full-time Prevention Specialist. The need for specialized services has increased significantly over

the past 5 years. Ms. Eden will educate at-risk youth by implementing programs to help young people make positive choices. Finally, Christina Potempa will become a full-time Resource Development Director. East Aurora is the only \$1 million-plus budget Boys & Girls Club in the nation that only has a part-time Resource Development Director. Mrs. Potempa will raise funds to increase our impact on members.

The namesake foundation of late Buffalo Bills owner, Ralph C. Wilson Jr., began operations in 2015 and aims to continue his legacy of generosity and innovation. Funding areas also include healthy risk-taking, collaboration, and an unshakeable community focus on Mr. Wilson's home and adopted home regions of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The Key Bank Foundation is dedicated to empowering individuals and neighborhoods through investing in education, mentoring, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. The First Niagara Foundation is committed to supporting programs that will provide long term enhancements to the quality of life primarily in Western New York.

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## Grant brings new opportunities to youth cont.

**W**e are thankful to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, KeyBank Foundation, and First Niagara Foundation for supporting our Club. However, this grant only funds these three employees for the next three years (years 4 and 5 of the grant period need to be funded by the individual clubs). The Boys & Girls Club still needs your help meet the needs of our members every day.



## Here is how you can promote our Club

- **Make a gift to the Great Futures Campaign:** This is our annual fundraising appeal that provides operating and programming support through individual donations. Donate today at [www.bgcea.org/donate.html](http://www.bgcea.org/donate.html)
- **Include the Club in your estate planning:** There are many ways you can help to secure our future. Add the Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora as a beneficiary in your will, make a gift through your IRA, or include us as a bequest on your life insurance policy.
- **Come to an event:** Attend a Club fundraiser, Alumni & Friends event, or offer to host an event for the Club.
- **Like us on Facebook:** This is a great way to stay up-to-date with us, and feel free to share our info!
- **Tell us what our Club means to you:** We love to hear how the Club has impacted our community. We may use your words of wisdom in publications and our website.
- **Tour our Club:** Want to learn more about our programs? Want to stroll down memory lane? Call us to schedule a tour.
- **Tell a Friend:** If you meet someone who could benefit from our programming, refer them to [www.bgcea.org](http://www.bgcea.org) or call us at 716-652-4180.

## The Club Is Moving Forward

**New Capital Campaign will increase programming to the community**

**F**or over 80 years, the Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora has been enabling young people to reach their full potential. Growing rapidly over time, the Club now serves an average of 380 children per day. **However, with increasing members and staff roles, the Club is bursting at the seams.** It's the kids who lose out when we cannot offer all of the programs that studies prove will keep them engaged, healthy, and challenged. The limited space makes it nearly impossible to handle the escalating challenges of our youth.

In June, the Board approved a capital project concept that includes a Wellness Center and movement studio. This will be a two-story addition

on the rear of the building. **It will feature a movement studio (targeted for dance, yoga, and exercise) and a mental health support center.** This will be open to all children in need of guidance, coping mechanisms, or just a listening ear. As part of this process, our Club has initiated a planning study, with the assistance of Nancy Montone (a local fundraiser and club supporter), to determine the feasibility of our plan. We are currently gathering opinions from our supporters and community members on this project's impact on our youth and community.

**We appreciate your assistance with this important endeavor. Please feel free to share your input on this new venture for the Club!**



## Future Music Makers

**I**f you come to our Club on a typical Tuesday, you'll find kids buzzing around, humming a tune or stomping a beat. That is because Tuesday is Music day at the Club! Every Tuesday, we collaborate with volunteer musicians from East Aurora High School to help members explore the world of musical instruments. Kids can play a little tune on the piano and discover the world of string instruments. Tuesday is also Karaoke Day. Youth can't wait to get on the stage in the Teen Room and stretch their vocal chords by singing their favorite song.

Music Making is important to a child's development. It helps strengthen memory and reading skills. It increases happy thoughts in the musician and helps build math skills. But this program wouldn't be possible without the support from foundations and individual donors like you. We would like to thank the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants) and individual donors for sponsoring this program. Your support helps us provide the impactful programs we offer after-school, weeknights, and weekends.

