



THE BUGLE

WINTER 2022 / Thank you for supporting the Club

Leaders in training

WHEN IT CAME TIME to plan The Club for Boys' Pixar Games this summer, Program Director Carri Redmond didn't have to look far for help. "It's really amazing because we had these boys who just wanted to help—all the time," she said.

As boys as young as nine kept asking about ways to help, Redmond got to work developing new opportunities for the boys to learn additional skills, put their gifts to work, and gain confidence in the process.

A handful of younger boys organized and hosted the Pixar Games event, training volunteers, helping order supplies, setting up the event, and cleaning up afterward—all with positive attitudes. "They took it seriously," Redmond said. "And I thought: wow, this needs to be fostered."

It's the start of something that will fit hand-in-glove with the volunteer and work opportunities the Club already offers. For years, boys have worked at paid positions in the Club's Thrift Store and at the annual Christmas Tree Lot. There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities, including the football league, where boys referee games, run the scoreboard, and sell concessions. The skills they hone are numerous, from customer service, teamwork, and time management to honesty and accountability.

Jordonn Taylor, 18, is one of the many boys who has benefited from the Club's focus on job skills. Taylor, who has worked in a variety of volunteer and paid positions, currently works as the games room assistant and at the front counter.

A senior at Rapid City High School, Jordonn hopes one day to referee for the National Football League or be a travel photographer. The Club has given him a leg up, he said. "I've learned a lot. Working gives members a chance to rise up as leaders."

There's no pressure for members to work or volunteer. "We're really talking about the boys who come in and don't want to just play," Redmond said. "This is a great opportunity for them if it's something they're interested in."

Jordonn agreed. "I'm so grateful for the work—otherwise, I wouldn't be where I am today."



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—JORDONN TAYLOR

Laying the foundation for success

IF YOU WERE LOOKING to hire an education director who could help you strengthen your partnerships with the Rapid City Area Schools (RCAS), who better than someone with two decades in the district on their resume? That was just one of the many reasons The Club for Boys was excited to welcome Gregg McNabb onto its staff this July.

It's the perfect fit as the Club looks to usher in a new era of its education program, according to executive director Doug Herrmann. "Gregg can carry out the vision we had for an enhanced educational program with better outcomes for our members while solidifying our relationship with RCAS. His hiring brought immediate credibility to our program with school district staff."

McNabb, who has worked as a teacher and administrator at Corral Drive Elementary and Valley View Elementary Schools, said he's grateful for the opportunity. "This has all come full circle for me because growing up, I was a Club member," he said. "I get to take some of my training and my background and bring it back to where I started. It's very rewarding."

McNabb has spent the first few months on the job building trust with the boys. "I've been doing a lot of relationship-building, playing games and chatting with them," he said. "I'm letting the kids know I'm a trained professional, and I'm just here to support them."

"My goal is to give members hope, whatever that looks like for them."

—GREGG MCNABB,
director of education

One area of growth in the Club's education program will be on-site tutoring. "As this program evolves, we'll be looking at employing certified teachers to come down and evaluate where students are underperforming and then provide support to boost skills in those areas," McNabb said.

He has also connected with local principals to discuss how the Club and the schools can link arms to provide more consistent and focused support to students.

One example is technology. Students in RCAS each have their own computer, though some of the younger students don't take them home. The Club has invested in the same computers so boys can come to the Club, log onto their school accounts, and work on assignments and projects.

It's part of the Club's goal of more effectively supporting learning outcomes, particularly as some students work to catch up from the COVID-19 pandemic. "This establishes a new educational focus so we can be directly involved with members from elementary through high school," Herrmann said. "We can also identify those with the most needs earlier, ensuring more members graduate high school on time with the necessary skills to be productive adults in their community."

"Education is so important," said McNabb, who reminds the boys that working hard in school will help them achieve their goals, whether they want to attend college or a trade school or enter the workforce. "My goal is to give members hope, whatever that looks like for them. Whatever they decide to pursue, they're going to need to be able to read, write, communicate, and do math. That foundation will provide them an opportunity to be successful. We're building something special here, and I'm blessed to be a part of it."



Welcome to WINTER WONDERLAND

HALLMARK: That's the atmosphere The Club for Boys is going for with its first-ever Winter Wonderland event this December 4th at the Christmas Tree Lot. "We're trying to make buying a tree more of an event, not just a task," said Mark Kline, the Club's assistant executive director. "We really want to create some happy memories for the boys and the families who come down."

Winter Wonderland visitors will have their pick of fun activities, from cookie decorating and a bounce castle to making pine-cone bird feeders and ornaments. There will be food trucks, cookies, cocoa, and cider. And, yes, plenty of decorations.

"One family told me, 'We don't come here to get a Christmas tree—we come here to get Christmas,'" Kline recalled. "That's what Winter Wonderland is all about."

For the boys, it's also about building practical job skills in a fun environment. Older boys who have worked as tree sellers in the past were asking Kline for this year's application as soon as the calendar hit October. This year, younger boys 12 and 13 will have the chance to help run Winter Wonderland.

"Like all we do, Christmas Trees is another example of a program that develops boys and teaches skills," said Kline. "Most families probably enjoy having a boy help them out, but they might not realize the full impact of what we're doing."



Buy a tree, make a memory

The Club's Christmas Tree Lot will be open from November 21 to Christmas Eve (or until trees sell out). The lot will be closed on Thanksgiving.

Winter Wonderland:

Sunday, December 4 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Tree Lot Hours:

Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–7 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thrift Store Tree Lot Hours:

Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

960 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Prices vary based on variety and height. This year's tree varieties include Black Hills Spruce and Ponderosa Pine (both cut locally), as well as White Pine, Scotch Pine, Balsam Fir, Grand Fir, Fraser Fir, Noble Fir, and Nordman Fir. Trees are 5 to 10 feet tall, but Club staff can cut Black Hills Spruce up to 16 feet through special orders. The Club also provides tree disposal bags, tree preservative, and netting for an extra cost.

Give on Tuesday, November 29, to The Club for Boys

Please consider making a gift to The Club for Boys on the annual South Dakota Day of Giving. This year, we're raising \$30,000 to improve our Education Center with an upgraded HVAC system and new doors and windows—improvements critical to the growth of our education program! To make a gift, choose Giving Tuesday on the reply device on this newsletter or give on Giving Tuesday at theclubforboys.org.

A life-changing visit

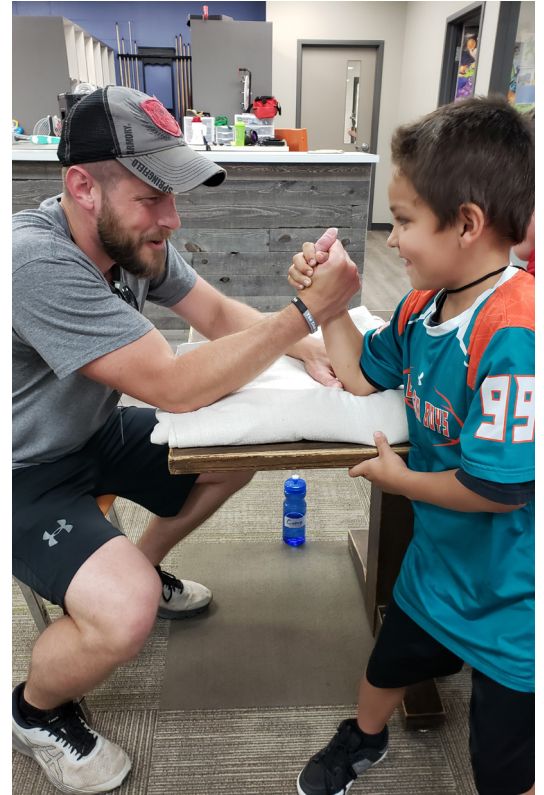
JAROD GALE will be forever changed by the time he spent at The Club for Boys. There would be nothing unusual about that if he were one of the Club's many alumni, but Gale made his first visit to the Club just this summer at nearly 40 years old, leading a volunteer group of high schoolers from Dekalb, Illinois.

"I told our guys, 'What I want you to do is walk in there with an open mind and an open heart,'" Gale recalled. "We don't know these boys' situations or what happens before they get here and after they leave. But we want them to know that they're loved."

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—JAROD GALE, volunteer leader

Gale's group came to the Club as part of their local church's LIFE Missions program and YouthWorks, which organizes volunteer trips across the country. Other groups participating in the Rapid City trip visited Habit for Humanity, Girls Inc., and other local nonprofit organizations. "Everyone had an amazing experience, just like us," Gale said. "Did we have a little more fun? Of course."



A Club for Boys volunteer tests his strength

"It was so heartwarming to see people spend such a short time with us at the Club and become so connected to our boys and our mission," said Carri Redmond, the Club's program director. "Jarod did a great job pushing his group out of their comfort zones and challenging them each day to connect with others."

During their week at the Club, Gale and his group were bowled over by the environment created by the Club's staff and members. "The level of respect the boys show the staff and vice versa is unbelievable," said Gale. "The loving atmosphere they provide for those kids—it's no joke. It's so important because the boys have to want to come here. And they obviously do."

Gale fondly remembers an afternoon helping run a carpetball tournament and how the boys were more cooperative than competitive. "There was no arguing or bickering, no badmouthing. That showed me a lot about the Club's impact on these boys."

The whole volunteer group left touched by their time at the Club, but for Gale, the experience was personal. A father of two boys himself, Gale walked away with a new perspective on fatherhood and the inspiration to bring the qualities he saw on display at the Club back home with him. He also found himself reflecting on his own upbringing.

"I get emotional because I've seen it," he said. "I was one of those kids. Some of them, it's all they'll ever know in life. I told myself that one day, when I became an adult and had a decent job, I would make sure I gave back. I want these kids to see what's out there, grow as individuals, and do as I do."

Today, Gale is planning his return trip. "I will be back to Rapid City. And I will make it a point to bring my own boys to The Club for Boys so they can see what my experience was for that week," he said.

His message for anyone in the area who hasn't taken the time to visit the Club themselves? It's simple: "Go try it. It's going to change your life."

YOUR GIFT changes the lives of our boys

Thank you to the people, businesses, and organizations that gave gifts from August 2022 to October 15, 2022, to The Club for Boys and The Club for Boys Foundation.

The Club for Boys Donors

The Club for Boys would like to thank everyone who donated gifts of time, money, and in kind. The following people, businesses, and organizations gave cash gifts of \$250 or more. Those with a * gave \$1,000-\$9,999, + gave \$10,000-\$99,999, and ! were gifts of \$100,000 or more.

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The Club for Boys Foundation is grateful for all gifts received. In August through October 15, 2022, the following contributions were received. Those with a * gave \$1,000-\$9,999, + gave \$10,000-\$99,999, and ! were gifts of \$100,000 or more.

In memory of Allan DeWald *
In memory of Dan Duncan *
In memory of Dale Jensen *
In memory of Richard "Doc" Lindenmeyer
In memory of Lonnie McKittrick +
In memory of Austin Prudich
In memory of Pat Teuber
In memory of Babe Tinant

Please support The Club for Boys with a gift now.

Please accept my gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$175 ☐ \$350 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: \$ _____

I wish to support: ☐ Christmas Family Program ☐ Giving Tuesday ☐ General Support for the Club

First and Last Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to make my gift by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

☐ Card Number _____ Expiration _____

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Rapid City Club for Boys
320 North 4th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

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ONLINE www.theclubforboys.org

CALL (605) 343-3500

VISIT 320 North 4th Street



**Happy holidays
from the Club!**

Watch our video for
some warm wishes!

SCAN ME



Spread holiday cheer through the Christmas Family program

The Christmas Family program pairs generous community members and organizations with eligible Club families to provide Christmas gifts, decorations, and groceries for a Christmas meal. There are two ways to participate:

- 1. DO IT YOURSELF:** Receive a wish list of gifts, food, and decorations. You'll gather and wrap the gifts yourself and, if you wish, order the groceries and decorations through the Club.
- 2. LET THE CLUB DO IT:** Donate \$350 or more for a family, and our staff and volunteers will buy and wrap the gifts and get the decorations and groceries for the Christmas meal. Can't quite commit to \$350? That's okay! Any amount helps us to sponsor families.

To participate, contact Sara Gentry at (605) 593-0242 or sarag@theclubforboys.org by December 12. If you send a check, please make it payable to the Club but note that it is for the "Christmas Family Program." Participating in this program brightens everyone's holidays!