



CONTINUING TO SERVE LOCAL YOUTH & FAMILIES

Hello to each of you from all of us at Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes. I wanted to reach out and connect with you during this critical and uncertain time. For 63 years and through economic crises and tragedies, Boys & Girls Clubs of Detroit Lakes has been a constant in the lives of children and families in our community. Unfortunately, with extensive school and workplace closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our community is facing extreme challenges. In this critical time, we remain committed to supporting local youth and families.

UPDATE ON OUR CLUB

With the safety of our staff and the children we serve each day at the forefront of our mind, we followed the orders of our governor and closed our programming on March 17th. With that said, we are adjusting accordingly to reduce daily costs and impact to our operations. We have applied for several grants due to the COVID 19 pandemic and we are working closely with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to gather information and research avenues of possible funding. We are also in constant conversation with state and local officials to determine how to meet the needs of our most vulnerable youth and families.

Before closing, our staff worked tirelessly cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces and materials in the building for the safety of our club members and staff. The majority of our staff have had to be laid off since, but we do have essential staff working every day to stay in contact with our most cherished commodity, the children we serve in our programs. As soon as recreational centers can open again, we intend to resume programming. There is information on the back side of this letter, "Continued Service", highlighting what we are currently doing to serve our club members and their families.

CONTINUED SERVICE

THE REASON WE ARE HERE

Our Club families are all struggling to some extent and we are doing what we can to stay in contact through phone calls, emails and social media. We want our Club families to know we have not stopped thinking about them during this difficult time; see more about what we are doing below.



Photo Credit: Vicki Gerdes

FAMILY FOOD BOXES

Thanks to generous community partners, on March 19th, there were 30 boxes of donated food distributed to families in need. They contained a variety of canned goods, non-perishables, meat and fresh fruit and vegetables.

THANK YOU!



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Online resources and uplifting reminders are posted regularly on our social media platforms. Separate pages were added to our website containing resources for both easy, in-home activities as well as COVID-19 safety information for families. These pages contain everything from art and STEM ideas to tips on hand-washing and managing anxiety through this crisis.



FAMILY ACTIVITY KITS

Thanks to funding from the NW Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and partnership with the Becker County Museum, 50 kits containing all the materials needed for two art projects and a STEM activity were distributed to families in need on April 14th.

THANK YOU!

Northwest Regional Sustainable
Development Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



Detroit Lakes
Newspapers



CHILD CARE FOR CRITICAL WORKERS

Beginning April 20th, in partnership with the Detroit Lakes School District, the Boys & Girls Club building will be used to provide the district's child care for community critical workers. These children of essential workers will be able to enjoy our space and materials.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DETROIT LAKES

COVID-19 RESPONSE



MOVING FORWARD

Together, we will get through this! We serve all families regardless of financial circumstances, and especially as we recover from this crisis, the affordability and quality of our programming will be needed more than ever. Families will be tasked with trying to pay for childcare after living on a limited income. Once open, we expect to serve 150+ children daily, providing them with two meals and a snack, structured and purposeful activities and caring adult mentors. Until things return to normal we will continue our efforts toward creatively serving our club members and families. Our mission is to serve “those who need us most” and that is exactly what we will do.

If you would like to get involved, please contact 218-847-5700 ext. 1 or email pat@bgcofdl.org.

THANK YOU

I hope everyone in your family is doing well. I know a lot of your businesses have been impacted financially and others of you may be facing possible unemployment. We are thinking of you and all of those close to you. If there is anything at all I can do to support you during this time of change, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I reflect daily on how blessed we are to have such a giving and caring community! On behalf of the youth and families we serve every day in Detroit Lakes, we appreciate your ongoing support of our club and mission. It is thanks to caring individuals, families, businesses and organizations such as yourselves that we can continue engaging our families during this uncertain time.

Thank you again for your support to the Club and our families!

Blessings to all,



Patrick Petermann,
Executive Director