

**GREAT  
FUTURES  
START  
HERE.**



# CLUB CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021

## From the CEO's Desk

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Dear Club Friends,

While 2020 was a challenge for communities around the world, we are optimistic that through collaboration on many levels, we will see significant strides made in getting COVID-19 under control this year. Our Clubs continue to meet the needs in our community when it comes to supporting our kids, teens, and families. All seven of our Clubs have remained open, 11 hours a day, providing a safe, warm, and supportive environment for our members to learn and grow.

Throughout the last year, our Clubs have remained flexible to meet the needs of our kids. With our shifts to accommodate the changes in return to learn plans, our organization has served students from 49 additional schools in the metro at one of our Clubs.

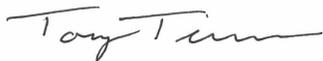
With the announcement that Des Moines Public Schools was returning to 100% in-person or virtual learning on February 15th, BGCCI returned to providing after-school programming hours only.

Although 2020 presented many unanticipated challenges for our Club and community, we still have so much to be thankful for today! We are open for in-



person youth programming, our staff is as dedicated as ever to ensuring a fun and safe Club experience, and our kids are growing and thriving. We are so grateful for your steadfast support of our organization, youth, and families! The investments you make today, make tomorrow possible for so many kids and teens in our community. **Please take a minute to consider your support for 2021 and learn more about how your \$100 a month donation makes a year's worth of opportunities possible. Thank you for making our mission a reality!**

With sincere gratitude,



**Tony Timm**  
Chief Executive Officer

[Make a Donation](#)

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Grady Fox is the Program Specialist at our Bernie & Berniece Baker Club at Hiatt Middle School, where he has been part of the team there since 2017.

**When asked why he has a passion for youth, Grady said,** "I have a passion for helping our kids overcome whatever challenges they may be facing in life, and helping them realize just how much they can accomplish if they work hard and put their mind to it. Our kids' positivity and enthusiasm are honestly infectious. I'm happy that we provide a place to help our kids enhance their creativity, play games, build friendships, and develop emotionally and intellectually."

**Fun Fact:** Grady has worked at Boys & Girls Clubs in three different cities (Sioux City, Ames, and Des Moines).

"Our kids have so much potential and a lot of the time, they just need someone in their life to show them that they believe in them." -  
Grady Fox



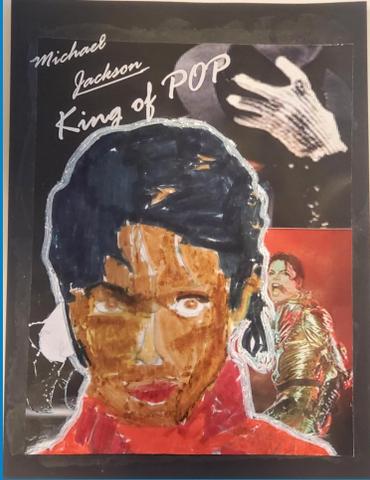
## Celebrating Black History Month at BGCCI

During Black History Month, BGCCI celebrates the achievements and contributions of Black individuals and communities in the United States and around the world. We remain committed to inclusivity, equity, and opportunity for ALL young people, as well as championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable organization. Cultural equity embodies the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people - including but not limited to those who have been historically under-represented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion - are represented in the development and implementation of youth programs; the fair financial and supervisory support of staff; and the leadership of the organization.

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In January, Club members created artwork in recognition of influential Black people from around the globe that include historical figures, world leaders, athletes, and celebrities for USCellular's third annual Black History Month Art Contest. The 10 finalists were chosen based on creativity, quality, interpretation, clarity of theme, and overall impression.

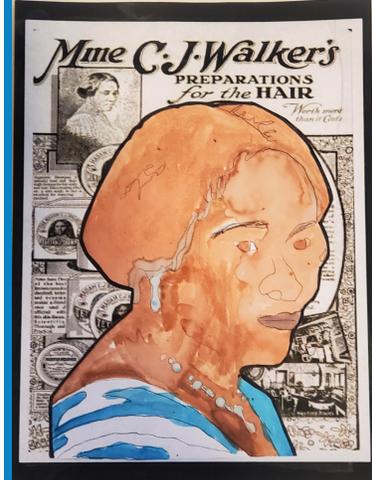
**For the first time, public voting is available online!** We encourage everyone to check out the art and vote online. Voting is open through February 28. Anyone age 18 or older can vote once for their favorite artwork. The top 3 will be announced in March.



*Michael Jackson*



*Barack Obama*



*Madam CJ Walker*

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE ONLINE!](#)

## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Our friends at Capital Striders consistently go above and beyond in their support for our youth. Every year, on January 1st, Capital Striders members brave the cold to participate in their annual Mitten Run. Runners donate winter gear such as mittens, hats, scarves, and more to make sure our Club members have adequate gear to stay warm and safe outside. **Despite the challenges of last year, Capital Striders put on an incredible event on January 1st so they could still provide these valuable items for our kids and teens.** We are so grateful to have them as supporters, volunteers, and friends.

**Thank you, Capital Striders for supporting our kids and teens on their way to great futures!**



## JOIN OUR TEAM!



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa is always looking for dedicated youth mentors to join our team! We currently have **both full-time and part-time opportunities** available to make a difference in the lives of Des Moines kids and teens.

[View Our Open Positions](#)

## COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Burt Club



The cold weather did not freeze the state's vaccination efforts. Last Saturday, a thousand Polk County Educators and BGCCI staff got their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Thanks to the Polk Country Health Department, Hy-Vee, Drake University, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa for hosting the clinic!

[Check out the news article here!](#)

# Upcoming Event: 5th Annual Great Futures Golf Tournament is June 14th!



Join Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa for an exciting chance to hit the course to benefit the youth of our community! Come support the kids and teens of our community, providing them with the resources they need to reach great futures!

For more information on our Great Futures Golf Tournament, contact Donor Engagement & Events Coordinator, Madi Bellile at [641-751-8085](tel:641-751-8085) or [mbellile@bgcci.org](mailto:mbellile@bgcci.org).

**REGISTER NOW!**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa | 515-242-7925 | 1421 Walker St. Des Moines, IA [bgcci.org](http://bgcci.org)

