



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF HENDERSON COUNTY**

Come by for a tour!  
Phone 693-9444 for an  
appointment!

**Summer Hours:  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Did you know...**

- Summer attendance in June averaged nearly 400 members per day.
- Twelve teen members are employed by the Club as junior staffers this summer.
- The Club offers academic remediation to students throughout the summer months.
- Nine graduating seniors received a Boys & Girls Club scholarship this year.



***“It is the people that make the place. And if home is a place, then the Club is home for me.”***

*—Club Graduate*

# POSITIVE Connections

## Summer Enrollment at Record Levels

While published reports indicate several local summer youth programs are cancelled or reduced, the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County is operating at unprecedented numbers this summer.

“The Club is serving nearly 400 kids a day,” said Operations Director Scottie Parks. “It is a full house.”

Staff attribute record participation to two factors: quality programs and affordable rates. A one-year club membership costs \$5.00 per child. Anyone can join.



Extra elbow room has also allowed membership to grow. The construction of a new gym in 2009 added 15,000 square feet of space to campus and made way for eight new classrooms.

## Focus on Fitness

Our Club is addressing the childhood obesity epidemic, beginning with a summer programming theme devoted entirely to health and fitness. Nationwide, one in three children is overweight or obese. North Carolina has the 14th highest rate of overweight youth in the country.

“We want kids to understand that they’re a whole person,” explained Bonnie Gibson, Club Program Director, K-5. “We want them to care for their minds, hearts and bodies. Being healthy is about being balanced.”

Members are staying in motion this summer. Field trips have a pronounced emphasis on hiking, climbing and swimming. Outings within walking distance are reached by foot—as often as possible. Additionally, snacks and meals served at the Club this summer consist of healthy, whole food items like fruits, vegetables, lowfat cheese and yogurt, nuts and whole grain crackers.

## Club Focus on Fitness extended to Parents

Roxanna Pepper wants to see parents sweat, and every Tuesday and Thursday evening she does just that at a free weekly exercise class, customized for parents of Club members. And



participants aren't just losing weight, some have even been able to stop taking certain medications based on their results.

"There's such a fellowship and a feeling of community in there," remarked Pepper, who has been leading adult fitness classes at the Club for the last three years.

Pepper's classes integrate workout techniques ranging from traditional aerobics to Yoga and Zumba.

"You only have one body and you have to take care of it. And I want this to trickle down from the parents to the kids," she said.

Pepper's free fitness class for Club parents and community members takes place Tuesday evenings at 6:00 in Room 8 of the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County.

## Celebration Dinner 'Transforms' Club

A record crowd of supporters commemorated the Club's tremendous successes of the past year at the 4th annual Celebration Dinner on June 19th.



With a theme of "transformation," the Club's gymnasium transformed into an elegant butterfly garden with seating for more than 200. And at the party, transformations within young people took center stage.

"My life story is inextricably intertwined with the Club. I would

not be where I am if it were not for this place," remarked Club alum and speaker Rosario Quiroz, now a senior at Columbia University.

Other celebrated milestones included a record number of youth served in 2009, a newly expanded campus and remarkable volunteer and donor support.



Seated left to right: Club Alumni Diana Thompson, Tequia Clark, Rosario Quiroz

## Staff raise \$4,300 for summer field trips

Budgeted resources were tight for field trips this year, but Club staff didn't let that slow them down. Instead they organized and staffed a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's in Hendersonville and raised an additional \$4,300 for the cause.



"It was their idea," Executive Director Kevin Lauritsen remarked. "They planned everything from start to finish because they wanted kids to have a great experience this summer."

As a result, members are visiting destinations including Otter Creek Water Park, the Carl Sandburg Home, Discovery Island, Carowinds and Columbia Zoo.



## Teen Members are college-bound

**2010 Graduates:** Austin Blythe, Jeremiah Brown, Devany Graham, Okkaya Greene, Alex Hicks, Eleanor Thompson (Hendersonville High School), Jameson Hill (East Henderson High School) Julia Wallace (North Henderson High School).



Jameson Hill, Austin Blythe, Julia Wallace, Eleanor Thompson and Jeremiah Brown (left to right).

**Austin Blythe** will attend Blue Ridge Community College to study history and one day become a high school history teacher.

**Jeremiah Brown** will attend Blue Ridge Community College. He wants to work towards a career that helps kids.

**Devany Graham** will attend Western Carolina University and pursue a degree in business

management. She would like to own and manage a chain of restaurants.

**Okkaya Greene** will attend Blue Ridge Community College for a year and then transfer to Berea College in Kentucky. He wants to become a lawyer.



Okkaya Greene and Devany Graham

**Eleanor Thompson** will attend Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte to study child development and social work.

**Julia Wallace** will attend UNC-Charlotte to obtain a degree in social work.

## Club Staffer receives top state award



Bonnie Gibson

Longtime staff member Bonnie Gibson has received the prestigious Professional of the Year Award from the North Carolina Boys & Girls Clubs. This distinction recognizes Bonnie as the top Club professional in the state of North Carolina. "I am thrilled by this honor and even more delighted that it celebrates work that I love to do," Gibson said.

Bonnie is a mother of 8 children and has served as a foster mother to more than 20. She has been at the Club for 12 years and is the Program Director, K-5.



**Save this very important date!!**

*Venture through the Looking Glass*

**THE MAD HATTER'S HIGH TEA PARTY**

**Thursday, September 23, 2010, 4-6 p.m.**

*Benefitting the extraordinary young women of the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County*

*General Admission is \$75.00 or come as a*

*"fairy godmother" for \$100!*

*Delights to include: Lavish High Tea Fare, Champagne, Wine, Hat Contest and Prizes, Silent Auction, Entertainment and more!*

**Call 693-9444 for further details.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF HENDERSON COUNTY

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## \$120,000 Goal for ResponseAbility Campaign

The goal of the 2010 ResponseAbility campaign is to raise \$120,000 to fund programs that meet the acute demands of our community's most vulnerable, at-risk youth.

Thanks to your support in 2009, our Club was able to respond, despite last year's significant economic hurdles.

This year we are committed to providing another unprecedented year of service, support and empowerment for kids.

Please make your gift today through our website:  
[www.bgchendersonco.org](http://www.bgchendersonco.org) or a check made payable to the  
Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County.

**What is your ResponseAbility?**

