

Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club

Alumni Chatter

MARCH 2021

Dear Friends,

2021 is truly a historic year, both for the world and for the NBGC. We started off the year in a newly renovated building after moving programs off-site for the first time since moving into the clubhouse in 1958. This March, we also mark one year since pivoting programs and events to be socially distanced, both to keep our community safe and to continue providing vital resources for families during this unprecedented time. Finally, we will celebrate our 90th Anniversary of "building better men & women" this October.

We are thrilled to announce that we have completed much-needed updates to our HVAC system, electrical system, doors and windows. This renovation meant moving our programs to a new location through the end of 2020. We are now back at home in the clubhouse, enjoying the updates from the renovation.

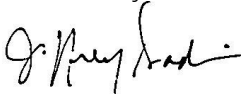
With so many changes, we have needed to work harder than ever to provide care for our members and their families. This includes offering assisted remote learning, which provides children with a safe place to attend their online classes, as well as safe and socially distanced athletics programs. For the safety of our community, we continue to follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks, increase cleaning procedures, and perform wellness screening and temperature checks.

Despite the changes in programs, events, and our building, we can say that we are continuing to make a difference in the lives of families that need us. We are honored to continue a long legacy of caring for the community by celebrating our 90th Anniversary this year. We hope that you will consider joining us at this year's Hall of Fame Banquet on October 30th to recognize the impact of the NBGC for the past 90 years and to honor some of the amazing men and women that have walked through our halls.

We have continued to be reminded of the power of legacy. Alumni, leaders, volunteers, members, and families have truly shown dedication to the club, reminding us of our vision to build better men and women. We continue to learn from young people just as they learn from us, working together to learn leadership skills, compassion, sportsmanship, and responsibility.

If you are able, please consider supporting our youth and families with a donation to NBGC. Your support will allow us to continue our life-changing work during these life-changing times.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Sadowski
Executive Director
Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club





SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

Innovative solutions that keep kids in school and learning



We've settled into our new normal here at NBGC. More than 40 children come to the clubhouse each week for a place to attend their online classes. As NBGC continues to support students with online e-learning, we are striving to make sure we are providing a safe and healthy space for all of our members. Some students have gone back to school two days a week and join us in our Assisted Remote Learning program on their remaining days for virtual school. During the school day, members have started to settle in to spending so much focus time at the computer. Sometimes keeping focus is hard for them, but they overall have improved since the school year first began. This month, members spent time playing together outdoors in

the snow, and had the opportunity to be adventurous outside while maintaining social distancing. Snowball fights, snow angels and gliding through the snow are some of the fun ways we made the most of all of the snow that has fallen. Since the weather is warming we are now taking all of our opportunities to be outside getting fresh air after school time.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Leaders work hard to support the the next generation

We have 10 leaders in training taking part in our virtual leader candidate training program. They are about to transition into the hybrid part where they will start training in person also. The leaders have been making a positive impact at the club, leading members in crafts, playing games, coaching, and refereeing. We've also begun an open gym session for the leaders to see each other outside of their volunteer hours and have fun playing and hanging out in a safe space. We've recently started a mental health initiative with our leaders, targeting mindfulness and purpose, through a partnership with MindUP. We've identified a need for leaders to learn about mental wellness, especially while there is so much change and transition happening around them.



ATHLETICS

Creative programs provide safe ways to stay active

We started off this school year just like every other, with soccer and football! We were excited to be able to expand these programs to allow both boys and girls this year, offering practices and scrimmage games to 140 soccer and 76 football participants. All of our programming has been modified to ensure the safety of our members, leaders, and staff. We are so grateful to have partnered with Bradley Fieldhouse, a 30,000 sq foot state-of-the-art facility, to offer basketball to 112 participants. Due to indoor sport restrictions, we started off the season with individualized one-on-one practices and eventually transitioned into small group practices with limited scrimmage play. We recently started our new Hitting Lab program, where participants will have the opportunity to spend time working on their swing in the indoor batting cage each week. When not in the batting cage, participants will be building fundamental skills including baseball grip, batting stance and swing, hitting off a tee, throwing, catching, target throwing, fielding, hand-eye coordination, and soft-toss coach pitching. While the Hitting Lab is in full swing, we are beginning to roll out information for our upcoming Spring Soccer, Summer Baseball, and Lacrosse programs.



*Special thank you to the
Bradley Fieldhouse
for donating program space!*



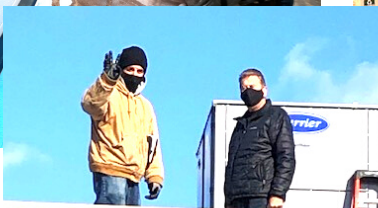
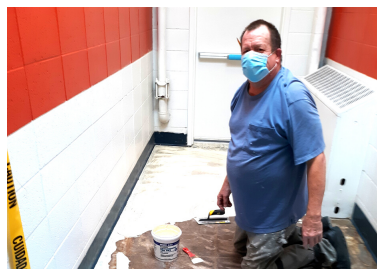
BUILDING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

Our historic renovation of the clubhouse is complete! We're excited to share before and after images of the transformation.

For the first time since moving in to the NBGC Clubhouse in 1958, we left the building to host our programs while the clubhouse was under construction. We are fortunate that, between Paul Revere Park and NBGC, we received 7.5 million in TIF dollars, which were used to complete much needed renovations, including installing a new HVAC system, electrical system, windows, and exterior doors in compliance with ADA regulations and to enhance our energy efficiency. We are so excited that this project is now complete! We welcomed members back into our clubhouse in December of 2020. The new ductwork has made our building more comfortable and energy efficient. The entry doors have been replaced and widened to increase accessibility and the older windows have been replaced, helping to keep the building warm and better insulated. We love having an updated building that will meet the needs of our members and help the club to run more efficiently. We will have our grand reopening and official ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 20th, with key community leaders and elected officials.



Above: A roof unit was added to cool the entire building. Below: Wall air conditioning units were removed.



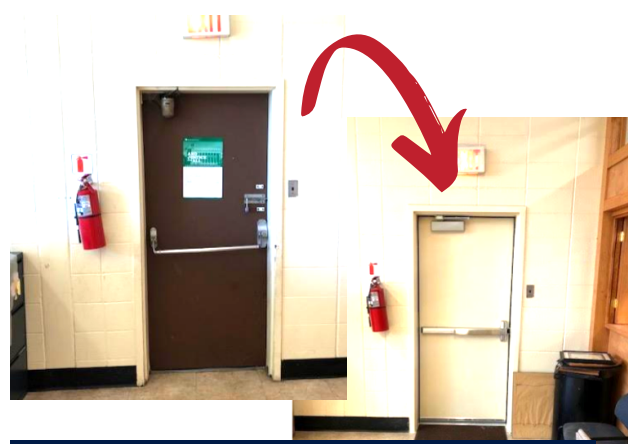
We're so grateful for the leaders and volunteers that have helped prepare the clubhouse for programs!

Left: Pat Doyle, NBGC alumni from the 60s Hornets, helped to update broken floor tiles after the renovations were completed. **Middle:** Board members Fares Zanayed and Jim Kartheiser wave from the roof of the NBGC during repairs. **Right:** NBGC Youth Leaders clean the building to prepare for programming.





Windows were replaced and updated with new and insulated glass.



Doors were updated to increase security and let more light into the building.



The boiler room was updated with a new, energy efficient system.



New ductwork was added to ceilings throughout the building.

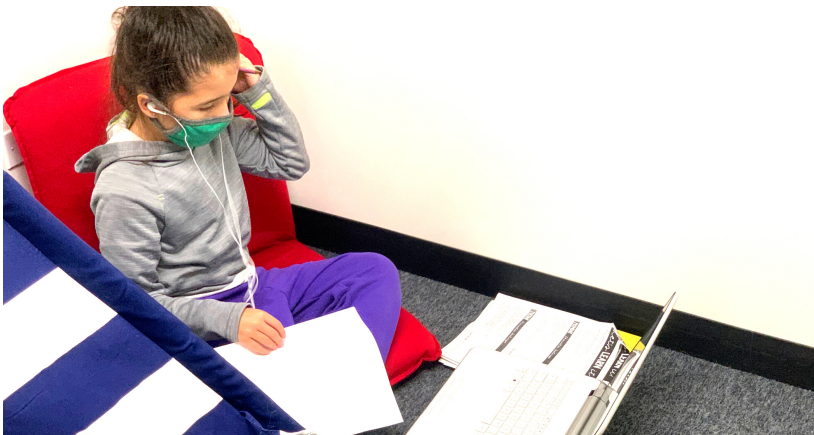




TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS STUDENTS

Thanks to a generous gift, NBGC is better able than ever to provide for the needs of our members.

Bill Pittges holds many titles at the NBGC: he's a board member, the technology committee chairman, and the son of the Hall of Famer and NBGC alumnus Jack Pittges. He's worked hard with staff to help us keep our technology up with the times, helping us transition to easier-to-use and more efficient technology solutions. When not volunteering his time to support the NBGC mission, Bill works at Microsoft as a digital strategist.



When he saw a need at NBGC for updated hardware and software to keep up with the demand that our staff and members have for reliable internet, Bill and his wife, Elmin, determined that they could help. Bill and Elmin donated \$11,000 to the NBGC, which was matched by the Microsoft Corporation, sending a total of \$22,000 to the NBGC to help update our technology systems.

So far, we have installed a new ethernet switch for added security and data management and 3 new Wireless Access Panels which provide fast internet all over the building, reaching each of our Assisted Remote Learning students and staff.

This donation has helped us ensure that our members can reliably attend their online classes, has increased our online security, and has improved workflow and function so staff have more time to grow our programs and support our members.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many employers will match your donations to qualifying 501(c)3 organizations like the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club! Check with your employer when you donate to know if your donation can be matched.

10,000 alumni...

More than 10,000 alumni have come through the clubhouse, each carving their way into the history of the NBGC. To honor our 90th year, we have collected a few alumni reflections and stories to share with you.

ALUMNUS: SAM MATSUMOTO 1940's Seabee

Greetings to my former teammates and fellow NBC'er's My name is Sam Matsumoto a former Seabee from the 1940's and in the league with the Bears, Raiders, Owls, Navy, and other teams. The teams were highly competitive but I'm sure all the teams no matter which league they were in, competed to the highest level. That was the spirit of all members of the NBC and we all tried to live up to the Club's motto of "For Better Men" and hopefully this still continues.

Because our group lived outside the original boundaries set up by the NBC, we had to receive special dispensation from Dick Valentin and Ken Lewan. They spelled out ground rules such as the team would have to meet all the scheduled events on time. As a side note reference about Ken Lewan, a few of us visited him a few times while he was recuperating at the Vaughan General Hospital from injuries in WW2.

The Seabees as a team were very competitive and we did well in the league taking various team and individual championships through the years. The Seabees also provided the organization with about 5-6 leaders who stayed with the NBC in the capacity of "Leaders". I would also like to make a statement. I was the only "oriental" (Asian) and proudly state I was always treated with respect and fairly, and the NBC should be very proud of this fact, especially in today's chaotic/turbulent climate and I personally want to thank you all from the bottom my heart.

I owe a lot to the NBC. Not only did it teach me important leadership skills that I used throughout my career as an Air Force pilot, but I gained friends I cherish to this day and an inspiring motto for life: "For Better Men".

CASSIE & TIM THEN...



& NOW!

ALUMNI: CASSIE & TIM

Cassie and Tim met at NBGC as members in 1998 at age 5. They participated in the Discovery Program, which at the time was for the younger members to come in and explore NBGC before they were old enough to jump into the Cadet and Pebble leagues. They quickly jumped into team sports as soon as they were old enough, often on the Pirates and the Pumas. Both of them went on to join the youth leader program where they were awarded yearly scholarships sponsored by alumni and community partners that helped pay for college. From there, it wasn't long until they worked their way up to become league directors. Tim went on to become the Athletic Director while Cassie helped in the Finance Department. Cassie and Tim welcomed a baby girl, Hayleigh, in October of 2020. Tim now works for Allstate Insurance on the National Catastrophe Team while Cassie handles all accounting for Chicago Faucet Shoppe.

Bereavement Notices

October 2020: Ron Bergman – alumnus

December 2020: Lorry Prybell - parent of alumnus

December 2020: Rolando Argumedo Jr. - alumnus

January 2021: Jack Dassow - alumnus

January 2021: Vivian Morici - parent of alumnus

February 2021: Denny Malnati - alumnus

...and counting

Each year, new alumni join the ranks of "better men and women," going on to do extraordinary things.

ALUMNUS: ARNOLD SCHRADER 1940's Member

The following is my recall of all the nice things that were provided to me as a member of the then N. B. C. and first hand experience in the old frame club house.

I found [the clubhouse] to be very exciting because I could never find the time to learn to play the table games such as checkers or chess. The real excitement and learning came when I was asked to join various teams like the Robins, Sea Bees, Aces, and perhaps others that played with them. I was a member of the club from about 1943 to 1948, and I was then in High School and played Baseball and Football at Lane Tech. I have tried to remember all of the players that became team mates- Ervin Huber, Bill Lindahl, Sam Matsumoto, Bob Adams, Ed Planen, Bob Mergens, Walter Ulick, Fred Stoesser, Jack Pittges - and so many others.

It has been a long time now that I have not hung out with the boys that I grew up with. I do know that all of us that were members of the N. B. C. grew up to be a credit to our own lives and our country.

ALUMNUS: FRED STOESSER 1940's Navy/Leathernecks

"I recall rushing to get to my Schwinn bike, notwithstanding my mother's plea to slow down and take my time eating my Wheaties. I was in a hurry to race 7 blocks east to the club, to Diamond #2 in the NW corner of Paul Revere Park. It was my turn to pitch for my team, the Navy! (In those WW2 days, some NBC members named their teams US Armed Services names, such as Army, Navy, Leathernecks, Seabees). I do not want to boast, but I think I pitched a 5 hitter in that 7 inning game. I recall a rainy autumn afternoon when Ray (Skip) Baumhart taught chess to about 15 of us in the clubhouse attic long room. (WW2 was on and he soon went into the service. Much later, he was president of Loyola University for some 20 years, longer than any president before or after him). I enjoyed the Friday night tournaments of chess or ping pong.

I regularly communicate with NBC alumni - one in California, another in New York, several in various parts of Illinois. Until Covid-19, over many years several of us met bi-monthly for lunch at restaurants in the northern suburbs."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a story to share about your time at the clubhouse? Let us know!

Stories and reflections can be sent to the Deputy Director of Development, Bill Abplanalp, at bill@nbgc.org.



CONNECT WITH FELLOW ALUMNI ONLINE!

This March, we posted the first entry to the new NBGC blog! This blog has been created from an effort led by the Archives Committee, which includes Ray Sugrue (Alum & Hall of Famer), Tom Krier (Past Executive Director, Alum, & Hall of Famer), Peter Maxfield (Hall of Famer & Former Board President), Bill Pittges (Board Member), and Tom Van Den Bosch (Current Board President, Alum, & Hall of Famer).

We hope that this blog will be a platform for alumni to comment with their memories and connect to other alumni online.

Find the page at www.nbgc.org/nbgc-blog.

Celebrating 90 Years

HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Saturday, October 30th, 2021

Save the date! Our 90th Anniversary and Hall of Fame Banquet will be held at the **White Eagle Events and Convention Center in Niles, IL on Saturday, October 30th**. We're looking forward to a chance to celebrate our long history while honoring our 2021 NBGC Hall of Famers. We're accepting nominations now! To make a nomination, visit www.nbgc.org/alumni or fill out the form below and mail it to us at 2501 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60618.



MAKE A HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

Criteria to be selected as a candidate for the NBGC Hall of Fame will be based on the principles of the NBGC: 1) Nominee must epitomize the Club's vision "For Better Men and Women." 2) Nominee must demonstrate Leadership, Sportsmanship, Scholarship and Volunteer Services. 3) Nominee should show an NBGC history of volunteering, contributing and/or supporting. 4) Candidate must be nominated via an essay about why the candidate should receive "Hall of Fame" status. *Please complete the entire form. An incomplete form will not be considered a nomination.*

Your (Nominator's) Information

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Nominee's Information

Name _____

Street Address _____

Street Address Line 2 _____

City, State, Zip _____

Primary Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Applicable Era

1930-1949 1950-1969 1970-1989

1990-2009 2010-Present

Please submit an essay describing the reasons why this nominee should be inducted into the NBGC Hall of Fame in the text box below.

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Donors from January 1 through December 31, 2020

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DID YOU KNOW? You can donate stock to NBGC!

Giving long-term, appreciated publicly-traded stock is another tax-efficient way for alumni and friends to make gifts to the NBGC!

For more information on this and other creative ways to give to the NBGC, please contact Bill Abplanalp, Deputy Director of Development at bill@nbgc.org.

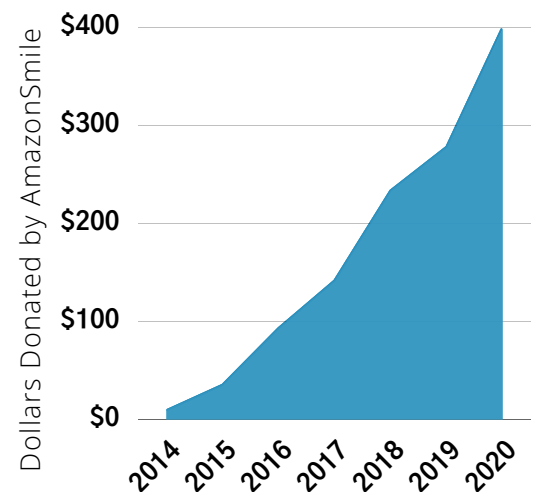


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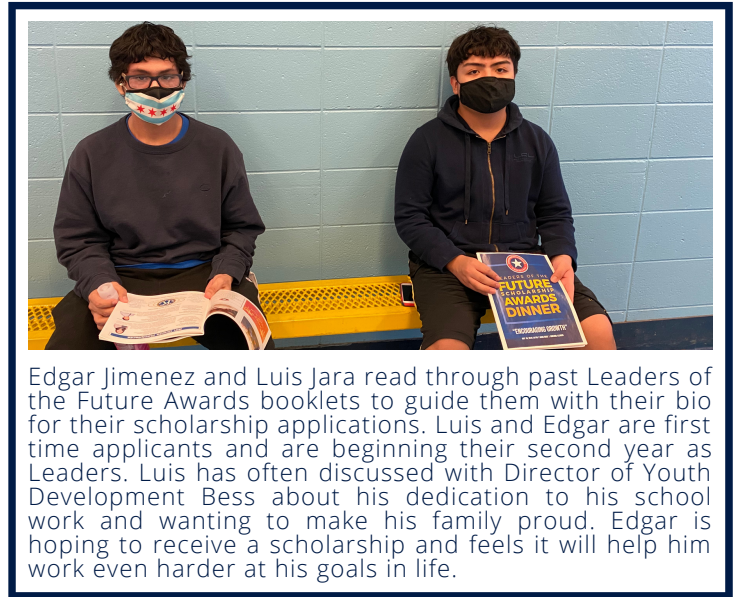
Leaders of Tomorrow

The NBGC leadership program prepares young men and women to be the leaders of tomorrow. Scholarships help pave their path forward.

APPLICATIONS ARE IN!

NBGC scholarship selection has begun

31 applicants have applied to the NBGC 2021 Scholarship program. The application is only open to current NBGC leaders. The process to apply includes a written application, the submission of two letters of reference, and a formal interview. We have 8 new applicants this year, most of which are newly eligible from our leader program. This year, we will recognize scholarship award winners at a virtual celebration on Thursday, May 13th, 2021.



Edgar Jimenez and Luis Jara read through past Leaders of the Future Awards booklets to guide them with their bio for their scholarship applications. Luis and Edgar are first time applicants and are beginning their second year as Leaders. Luis has often discussed with Director of Youth Development Bess about his dedication to his school work and wanting to make his family proud. Edgar is hoping to receive a scholarship and feels it will help him work even harder at his goals in life.

From Leader to Graduate: DALIA ARROYO

The NBGC Scholarship has the power of putting young adults through college and allowing them to achieve their greatest potential. One such adult is Dalia Arroyo. Dalia joined the NBGC in June 2011 as a Youth Leader. Since then, she has worked at the NBGC as Summer Staff, League Director, and now serves as our Interim Athletic Director. After graduating from Lane Tech in 2017, Dalia continued her education at Northeastern Illinois University to earn a degree in Elementary Education. Dalia is an 8-year NBGC Leaders of the Future Scholarship (2013-2020), James E. Baumhart Excellence in Leadership Award (2013 & 2016), and Program Innovation Award (2020) recipient. Dalia is set to graduate this May, 100% debt free as a result of her scholarships from the NBGC and the Golden Apple Scholar Award. Following her graduation, she will pursue a career as an elementary education teacher with Chicago Public Schools.



Dalia (middle) poses for a picture while refereeing at the 2019 Thanksgiving Day Classic

A NEW CLASS OF LEADERS

NBGC welcomes 10 new leaders-in-training

Leaders Jose and Juan have experienced a lot of change since beginning their own training. They had just begun their LIT program when the October 2019 CPS teacher strike began, followed by COVID-19 closures in March of 2020. A lot has changed this past year, but leadership and mentoring has stayed consistent. We are proud of the growth that all of our leaders exhibit. They have each grown so much this past year, showing initiative and responsibility. All of the current leaders have been vital to training the new leaders, both with showing them the ropes and also welcoming them to our community.



Elvis, a new Leader-in-Training (LIT), shadows his brother Juan and fellow leader Jose on tasks around the clubhouse.

Mark your calendar

We hope you'll join us throughout the year to have fun, connect with other friends and alumni, and support the NBGC

LEADERS OF THE FUTURE CELEBRATION

Thursday, May 13th, will be our Leaders of the Future Celebration! We hope you'll join us - virtually - for a night of inspiration and hope for the future that our youth leaders are helping to create.

Tickets are on sale now, so be sure to register today! General admission is free, but VIP Tickets can be purchased for \$85 and will include admission to an exclusive panel discussion with scholarship recipients and entry into a door prize raffle. Register online to attend now at www.NBGCLeaders.givesmart.com.

52ND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Our 52nd Annual Golf Outing will be on Monday, September 20th! Individual tickets are \$125 or \$500 for a foursome. Each golfer will receive lunch, dinner, access to a free beverage cart on the course, and a golfer goody bag. We hope you'll join us for this annual tradition of golfing with friends and alumni of the NBGC!

Sponsorship opportunities are available!

To inquire about sponsoring this event, please contact Jeff Sadowski, Executive Director, at jsadowski@nbgc.org or 773-463-4161 x116.

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Golf Outing

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
THE LINKS AT CARILLON

LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

CELEBRATION

MAY 13, 2021

Meet the leaders of tomorrow today.

TICKETS: www.NBGCLeaders.givesmart.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 29th - April 2nd: Spring Break Camp

April 3rd: NBGC's Easter Hop-By

April 20th: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

May 13th: Leaders of the Future Celebration

June 7th- August 27th: Summer Camp

September 20th: 52nd Annual Golf Outing

October 19th: NBGC Turns 90!

October 30th: 90th Anniversary Celebration
and Hall of Fame Banquet

November 20th: Thanksgiving Day Classic

November 20th: Lucky Date Raffle

November 30th: Giving Tuesday

Date still to be determined: NBGC's 2nd
Annual Virtual 5K Fun Run. Run, walk or bike
from your own home or neighborhood to
raise money for NBGC!



HELP US BUILD OUR ALUMNI NETWORK!

Do you have skills or resources that you'd like to pass on to the next generation of leaders? Let us know about how you'd like to be involved with the club by contacting Deputy Director of Development, Bill Abplanalp, at bill@nbgc.org or our Director of Youth Development, Bess McGeorge, at bess@nbgc.org.



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