

Alumni

March 2020



Neighborhood
Boys & Girls Club
For Better Men & Women

Chatter

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Change is inevitable: growth is optional. At NBGC, we encourage growth. As NBGC grows in numbers, knowledge, and resources, our members grow physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. We know that change will come, and we believe in adapting to that change by growing stronger and more resilient together.

We are anticipating some significant changes in 2020. While change can cause uncertainty and anxiety, we are hopeful that each change will bring new opportunities to grow and adapt.

One exciting change is that we have grown enough to need an additional vehicle! We have a waiting list of students hoping to join our programs at Chicago International Charter School (CICS). Currently, we limit the number of students we accept to the number of seats in our van. With a second vehicle, we will be able to increase our impact. More students will be able to join us for our afterschool, athletic, and leadership programming.

Another change for us is increasing our use of technology. You may have seen our brand-new website already! We are also adding a mobile bidding component to our Leaders of the Future Scholarship Celebration, so all of our supporters can access our silent auction online, from wherever they are. Additionally, we are beginning to shift to online forms and accounting procedures. In all of these changes, our goal is to maximize our efficiency, and in doing so, spend more time focusing on our mission to create better men and women.

As you will read on the next page, there will also be some changes made to our Thanksgiving Day Classic. Due to changing populations at NBGC, we will be moving our Championship games to the Saturday before Thanksgiving to increase participation. Our intent is to involve more of our families and members, and continue to support them on their way to developing life-long friendships and mentorships.

Another change that will impact us greatly deals with our building. NBGC and Revere Park will have major renovations completed this year, thanks to securing \$7.5 million in Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) dollars. This money will help us continue to comply with federal ADA requirements and update our HVAC system and electrical system. Tentatively, beginning on September 8th our NBGC building will be closed for two months and Revere Park will be closed for about one year.

Rest assured, we will not let our families down and will continue to provide quality programs and services while our building is closed. Children that participate in our after-school program will be served at one of our local school-based sites and we will continue to use our athletic fields for our sports leagues. And, of course, NBGC staff will still be available during these renovations. Email me at jsadowski@nbgc.org or reach out on social media to contact us!

We are so grateful that during these changing times we can continue to count on your support. With change, we are made stronger. With your support, we are unstoppable. Please consider a life-changing gift to the NBGC this year to support young people reaching their full potential.

Jeffrey Sadowski
Executive Director



CICS Irving Park kids love getting picked up each day to come to NBGC in the van. They especially enjoy the 1pm Wednesday dismissals each week.



47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin, Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen and NBGC Staff serving community seniors lunch over the holiday season.

Founded By Robert Buehler and Richard Valentin in 1931 for Carl Buehler

The Last Thanksgiving Day Classic

Last year marked our 89th Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic. Each year, we invite alumni, current members, staff, and friends to join us as we gather together on Thanksgiving. We decorate our halls with pieces of our history, enjoy each other's company, and play youth football games and soccer games while our NBGC cheerleaders cheer. We enjoyed donuts donated by NBC/NBGC 1950's & 1960's alums in memory of their teammate **Ernie Sardilli** and **Starbucks coffee** donated by Starbucks on 4557 N Lincoln Ave. Thank you to **Wayne and Virginia Duckmann** for co-sponsoring the event. We are reminded in these times of our wonderful community with gratitude and thanks. We also pulled our Lucky Date Raffle winners on Thanksgiving, and thanks to your generosity we made over \$7,000 to support vital programs at the NBGC! Congratulations to our winners: **Bela Davidson, Don Wiener, Kim Mattes, Tom Mason, Miguel Claudio, George Amend, Frank Hashimoto, Eileen Chambers, Helen Demes, and Jim Swaggerty.**

As you may have heard, we are changing our Thanksgiving Day Classic beginning this year. This decision was not made lightly. Historically, a pep rally would be held on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, followed by our championship youth football and soccer games on Thanksgiving Day.

Over the years, Chicago Public Schools have changed their academic calendar and now give students the day off on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving. As a result of this decision, many of our families go out of town for Thanksgiving. Our attendance has been low in the past few years that the teams aren't complete without several players from other teams filling in.

After an extensive conversation with our Board of Directors and Program Committee, NBGC has decided to move our Championship games to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This will ensure that each team in the Championships has an opportunity to participate fully. In this new setup, we will have the pep rally on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving Day, which will include our revamped alumni band led by **Mike Teolis** and **Tom Krier**, and a bonfire.

Our goal is to keep the championship game meaningful to children and families. After a season of hard work, our athletes want the chance to participate in the Championships. With this transition, we are keeping our program more accessible to our members.

Interested in lacing up your cleats on Thanksgiving Day? We hope to entice our Alums to come out on Thanksgiving morning for pick-up flag football games for Adults and families to play at the clubhouse! Contact **Bill Abplanalp**, bill@nbgc.org, for more information on joining in. Can we say REMATCH Thanksgiving 1982?? 1966?? Who wants to win the title??

All Activities that are scheduled are subject to the building renovations being completed and the building being open for the festivities.



Tom Krier, NBGC Board President Tom Van Den Bosch & Arp Horvath

NBGC Operations Director, Bonnie Werstein with Youth Leaders: Alana Finch, Xiomara Rueda-Marshall, Yasmina Chammas, Aidan O'Shea and Youth Member Steven Rene

NBGC Girls Program League Directors, Laura Arroyo, Lily Lebron & Karlie Kielnik

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NBGC Athletics

The basketball season at NBGC has come and gone after a record breaking turnout of over 550 boys and girls participating this winter! The season began following Thanksgiving and wrapped up in the first week of February. Keeping with tradition, NBGC hosted our annual basketball achievement contest over winter break while the kids were out of school. Participants from all age groups and leagues came out to showcase their skills in individual competitions in an attempt to take home the 1st place trophy and see their name posted in the weekly Monkeyshine. The conclusion of the season featured several championship games, all-star games, and of course, our traditional parents vs. kids games to wrap up another successful season.

At NBGC, the end of one season marks the immediate beginning of the next! After basketball concluded, we kicked off the floor hockey & volleyball season in the early weeks of February. We have close to 400 participants registered for this season which is a big jump up from last year! Even more exciting is the great turn out in our oldest Tribe and Senior leagues. We're excited to see this season unfold with 6 teams per league and a waitlist to boot!



Afterschool Program Enrichment

NBGC afterschool programs serve over 400 youth during the school year at 4 separate locations. All afterschool program kids can expect a healthy snack upon arrival, homework help and of course free time to play. Our onsite location at NBGC serves 60 kids all coming from surrounding neighborhood schools. After homework is completed, NBGC kids can choose to play dodgeball or basketball in the small gym or make their way into the gameroom for table and board games. Lately, the kids have been obsessed with playing charades with the youth leaders and staff.

At the Coonley afterschool program, 215 youth enjoy playing teambuilding games with their peers like the human knot and pass the hula-hoop game which are lead by NBGC leaders. Unfortunately, it's been too cold to play outside so the kids have been passing time by reading, coloring and playing with legos or board games. Arts and crafts are also a favorite activity at Coonley. For the Super Bowl, the kids made piñatas with their favorite team on the front and they made sweet Valentines for their parents. Every Friday, the Coonley afterschool kids are treated with a movie day or they can choose to work on a craft.

The Bateman afterschool program hosts 109 youth members which have been busy with completing Junior Achievement after homework is completed. Junior Achievement is a program for K-8th graders which help foster skills like work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills which help encourage students to dream big. The afterschool program kids also like to play "Cool Math Games" on the computer, play with sensory toys like kinetic sand and board games are always a group favorite. Fridays have become movie & popcorn days for the younger kids and they love the chance to relax and kick back after a long week.

The Cleveland afterschool program is still growing and we hope to have more youth sign up in the fall for the next school year. The 25 kids in the program love to play hang man, board games and Pictionary after homework is completed. They try to go outside if the weather permits, but otherwise spend their time in the computer lab playing games or in the gym where they play basketball, soccer and have scooter races. Each week they set aside one day for arts and crafts and they also have a movie day at the end of each week on Friday.



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Congratulations on 51 Years, ACES!

In 1969, students at St. Benedict's High School formed the "ACES", a softball team to join the newly created league at Paul Revere Park. Many original ACES started playing 16 inch softball at the age of eight at the Neighborhood Boys Club (NBC) on Chicago's North Side. In 1971, the ACES added friends from the Alpha Chi fraternity and others from DePaul University. The ACES were very competitive and played almost every evening at Northwest side parks and competed in tournaments on weekends. The ACES have played in leagues/tournaments at numerous parks across Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

Over the years, the ACES have accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments: 1971 Clarendon Park Saturday League Champs, 1972 and 1973 Paul Revere Park Champs, 1976 and 1977 Paul Revere Park 2nd place, 1978 Portage Park B League Champs, 1982 Paul Revere Park Champs, 2000 Horner Park Champs and 2008 Indian Road Park Champs. The ACES have played over 1,300 softball games together over 50 years. **The ACES team will be inducted into the 16" Softball Hall of Fame in May 2020.**

Some of the team's greatest memories included the invitation to play in the 1976 Andy Frain tournament at Clarendon Park. The ACES drew the reigning city champions, "Murderer's Row", in the first round and won by a score of 3 to 2. The ACES next faced the "Bobcats". Although the ACES lost, it was quite an experience playing one of the most legendary teams in softball history. Another great moment occurred when the ACES won the prestigious Ed Kelly Tournament at River Park in 1977. The ACES faced four "A" league teams to win the tournament, beating the "Silver Streak" team in the semi-finals and the "Circus" in the championship game. Other great moments included the great rivalry against the "Drifters and Blues" in the 70's and 80's.

The ACES faced it's biggest challenge in March of 2008, when coach and original founder of the team **John Barrett** (2007 16" Softball Hall of Fame inductee) passed away losing his battle against cancer. The ACES dedicated the 2008 season at Indian Road Park to the memory of John, winning the league with an undefeated record! That year's team included five sons of current and past ACES. Fathers and sons playing together to honor John's memory. It was only natural as so many families grew up attending and watching the ACES play. In fact, the ACES story has been featured by CBS Channel 2 Dana Kozlov in 2018, Rob Johnson of CBS Channel 2, in 2012, for a "Your Chicago" telecast. In 2009, Pioneer Press also did a feature article on the ACES and 16 inch softball.

Rather than retool the team roster each year, the ACES have relied on their close-knit friendships, families and sports ability. Several current players have been with the ACES for over 40 years, in fact one of the original founders, **Jim Kartheiser**, has played all 51 years! In the last 13 years, the ACES infused their team with some young blood and legs, by asking a number of their sons to play along side them. This plan worked so well, that today the ACES play in two leagues at Indian Road Park. The older ACES play in a 55 plus league which the ACES helped organize and all ACES continue to play competitively in their main league which features nine sons playing alongside their fathers passing down the ACES tradition.

As a team, the ACES have been blessed to have so many loyal fans and sponsors. This year's team sponsors - **The Travel Gallery** and **Weichert, Realtors-All Pro**, have been behind the team since the very beginning.

Off the field, the ACES have become lifelong friends, sharing many family events and banding together to support many youth and young adult focused projects. Over the years the ACES and friends held a **John Barrett Golf Open**, to commemorate his leadership and friendship. All proceeds raised are donated to the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club scholarship program, which will help support a college bound youth leader. Many ACES Team families have grown up at NBGC and continue to support the organization's mission immensely. Aces families have created and supported the Jessica Freundt Memorial Fund and The Paul Seiwert Foundation raising \$500,000 for cancer research and high school scholarships. They have also supported "Honor Flight Chicago" and Avenues to Independence. Together they greatly supported John C. Coonley Elementary School with donated time and money, resulting in attendance tripling, improving sports programming and test scores. Lastly, but as equally important, several ACES have given a great deal of their time and skills to coach competitive sports at elementary schools, high schools, park districts and Special Olympics to further develop athletes in the coming generations.

The following are members of both the ACES Softball Team and NBGC Alums: **Bill Abplanalp, John Barrett, John Fahey, Arp Horvath, Wally Johnson, Jim Kartheiser, John Kosick, Tom & Scott Krier, Greg Nimietz, Tom Parvola, Denny Stangel & Ray Sugrue.**



ACES Fathers & Sons
Playing Together!



Current ACES 55 & Over Team



2008 Championship Team with John Barrett added. John's spirit will always be part of the ACES.

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Growing Leadership at NBGC

The NBGC leadership program is off to a strong start in 2020! Three times a year, we prepare for a new round of youth members to begin their 10 week journey as a Leader in Training (L.I.T). We currently have 7 amazing pre-teens who are receiving hands-on job training by shadowing current leaders and taking initiative by jumping in where they're needed. Our next L.I.T training will begin April 15th and will be the last training before summer.

Our current NBGC Leaders are busy score marking and officiating floor hockey and volleyball games for our youth leagues as well as working with our youth members in the after school programs. We recently received a donation of 13 bikes from The Bike Cooperative that were given to 8 youth leaders. We are keeping 5 bicycles at the clubhouse for leaders to take bike rides on the new trail near us. Next month, a group of leaders will be heading to Wisconsin to go winter tubing and enjoy some outdoor fun together. It's important that our leaders spend time with each other outside the club where they themselves can have fun. The leaders holiday party was a perfect way for the leaders to come closer together as a team. While two mobile escape rooms were set up inside the clubhouse, a wicked up-scale and intense white elephant gift game was underway followed by a delicious meal catered by Big Star Taco.

Each summer the NBGC Leaders set out on adventure with the Chicago Voyagers. This year we will be going on three trips to Devil's Lake in Wisconsin, Canoeing and Camping on the Mississippi River and a week-long trip to the Boundary Waters in Ely, Minnesota. While in Minnesota, the leaders will be visiting The North American Bear Center, camping out a few nights in the Boundary Waters and staying at Chicago Voyagers' cabins for a few nights.



Meet Julie Stone



Julie has been part of the NBGC since 2011, but has been part of the NBGC family for much longer. Her uncle, **Dick Kinzig**, was active at the Neighborhood Boys Club in the 40s and 50s. Growing up a block away, Julie spent a lot of time at Paul Revere Park. Her cousins, the **Steppan** and **Nimietz** families, were members here in the 70's. Later on, she married her former husband **Tom Stone Jr.** The **Stone** family was a large part of the Club. NBGC Hall of Famer (HOF) **Elma Stone** was the executive assistant to past Executive Director and HOF **Rich Brandon**, and her husband **Joe Stone** was always volunteering. Their son **Tom Stone Sr.** was a member in the 50's and continues to actively recruit people to have a great time at the annual Bears Bash. Tom's wife **Sharon Stone** and sons **Tom** and **Steve Stone** were active at the NBGC in the 70's and continue to support the Club in different ways.

All along, NBGC was growing and changing. In 2011, Julie received a call from HOF **Dave Ottesen** to fill a need as a finance consultant next to HOF **Gloria Goerner**. By 2015, NBGC needed a full-time finance administrator, although there wasn't money in the budget to pay for one yet. Something told Julie 'it will all work out.' In the Spring of 2015, due to some staff restructuring, past Executive Director and HOF **Tom Krier** was able to offer her a full-time position as the NBGC Finance Manager. We talked to Julie to learn more about her connection to NBGC, love of rock music and heart for service.

How has NBGC helped you in your career development? I knew in high school that I wanted to be an accountant. I've always loved working with numbers. I received my BS in Accounting at University of Illinois at Chicago, began my career at Arthur Andersen and became a CPA. Now that I am at NBGC, I realize that I can still do the type of work I enjoy but in a very rewarding setting. I get the best of both worlds. NBGC is an organization that has such an impact on others. I get to see our mission at work daily and always enjoy when the kids stop by my desk for a visit. They really make me smile! As our organization continues to grow, I continue to learn. Fortunately, we have an incredible Finance Committee, led by Board Member and Treasurer, **Diane Kelly**. The committee members bring a variety of strong financial backgrounds to the table, and through this collaboration, they have

helped advance our financial policies, goals and procedures. Another great experience was being able to provide hands on accounting experience and guidance to alum and scholarship recipient **Cassie Kielnik** while she was working here as a League Director and going to school for her accounting degree at DePaul University. She still comes back to help during crunch times! We have also grown so much since I've been here that **Jasmine Anza** has expanded her role as the Cleveland Afterschool Director and is assisting with the accounting responsibilities. This is also helping her to grow as she continues to expand her skill set.

How does NBGC fit in your family? I have three sons, **Mike, Ryan** and **Danny**, and all of them have worked or volunteered here. Mike currently works for the Afterschool Program at Cleveland and Danny has been working here over the summers. I am honestly just thrilled to have the opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful organization and really blessed that my children have also been and continue to be a part of that experience.

What are 3 words to describe NBGC? Family, Welcoming, Fun

What else do you love about NBGC? The history! I felt right at home the moment I walked in the door. Through so many intersections, this place has affected me deeply and I'm so grateful for that. I also love Chicago history, and the NBGC is no doubt very rich in history dating back to 1931! The NBGC has impacted countless lives and I always love when alums stop by to visit and reminisce about the good old days! Many lifelong friendships have been created at NBGC.

What do you do for fun? I love spending time with my family and boyfriend, **Bill**, and I love listening to live music! I actually just went on a Monsters of Rock Cruise with **Bill** and was able to see 30 concerts and meet many band members on a floating paradise. It was amazing!

What do you want to see happen in the next 10 years at NBGC? I would love to see us grow even more. It would be great to have additional building space and field time to accommodate even more kids and give them the opportunity to call this place home, too.

Anything else you'd like to share about NBGC? It's an important place. Kids are able to come here to feel safe, included and grounded, and that's just so needed. I also work with the most incredible staff. It's truly a joy to come to work, and I think that's a special gift.

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Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club 2020 Calendar

Mar. 13 th	Movie in the Fieldhouse @ Revere - Spiderman: 7:00pm
Apr. 6 th -10 th	NBGC Spring Break Camp: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Apr. 11th	Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00am
Apr. 17 th	CPS Day Off School. NBGC Open: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Apr. 19 th	Revere Park Spring Clean Up: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Apr. 22 nd	CPS Day Off School. NBGC Open: 8:00am - 6:00pm
May 7th	Leaders of the Future Celebration
May. 22 nd -25 th	NBGC Closed for Memorial Day Weekend
Jun. 8 th -19 th	NBGC June Camp
Jun. 12 th -14 th	Volunteers Needed for Ribfest Chicago
Jun. 22 nd -Jul. 31 st	NBGC Summer Core Camp
Jul. 20th	51st Annual Golf Outing @ The Links at Carillon Plainfield
Aug. 3 rd -28 th	NBGC August Camp
Aug. 31st	3rd Annual Cubs Night: Cookout - 4:00pm Game - 7:05pm
Sept. 4 th -7 th	NBGC Closed for Labor Day Weekend
Sept. 12 th	Movie in the Park @ Revere: Time: TBD
Oct. 16th	Hall of Fame Induction & NBGC Anniversary Dinner
Oct. 18 th	Revere Park Fall Clean Up: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Nov. 14 th	5 th Annual Revere Park Chili Cook Off @ Burning Bush Brewery
Nov. 20th	NBGC Pep Rally
Nov. 21st	NBGC Turkey Bowl Championship Games
Nov. 26th	Thanksgiving Day Alumni Friendship Games

***Sept. 8th-Nov. 8th NBGC Building will be closed for renovations.**

ALL PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE
DURING BUILDING CLOSURE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Back in 2018, the IRS has declared that charitable donations made from one of your tax deferred accounts will be exempt from taxation up to \$100,000 as long as the distribution comes from a qualified account and is donated to a charity like the NBGC.
- This is good news for IRA owners that would like to be generous with their funds, while at the same time lowering their overall estate and avoiding taxation on their distribution.
- 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 creative options to give to NBGC, please contact

Bill Abplanalp,

**NBGC's Deputy Director of Development at
(847) 826-1317 or bill@nbgc.org.**

The Robert Buehler Legacy Society

*Preserve Your Values Along With Your Assets
Consider the NBGC in Your Estate Planning*

Recent additions include: Ron Julian, Richard Muenow, and Jim Swaggerty

The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club's mission is to enhance the well-being and develop the potential of its members, their families and the community. This is accomplished through multi-faceted programs where "Everybody Plays."

The *Robert Buehler Legacy Society* recognizes individuals who desire to invest in the future of the NBGC. A gift of any size can make a difference. NBGC can assist you in finding the giving strategy that works best for you:

- **OUTRIGHT GIFTS:** Cash or Appreciated Securities/Properties
- **BEQUESTS:** Designate a Percentage of your Estate, or a Particular Dollar Amount
- **INSURANCE POLICIES:** Name the NBGC as the Beneficiary/Owner of a Life Insurance Policy
- **TAX CONSIDERED LIFE INCOME PLANS:** Establish a gift to NBGC that provides an income plan for the lifetime of the donor while providing significant tax advantages including an income tax deduction and reduction/elimination of capital gains taxes, if funded with appreciated assets

Whatever strategy you select, there may be considerable advantages, including reduced exposure to state and federal estate taxes and control or greater income from assets designated for charity.

The *Robert Buehler Legacy Society* will provide critical and valuable resources so that:

- The NBGC can maintain reasonable and affordable program fees by providing investment underwriting.
- All children/youth can participate in NBGC programming—regardless of the family's economic circumstances.
- There is a source of funds available to invest in new program initiatives to further NBGC's mission.

Protect your Estate and Support our Mission!

Designing a legacy - large or small - will represent your enduring values. There is no obligation and your information will remain confidential. The Robert Buehler Legacy Society Donor Wall is located at the park side entrance to our building. Will your name be added?

For more information contact:

**Bill Abplanalp, NBGC's Deputy Director of Development
847.826.1317 (m) | bill@nbgc.org**

Corporate Membership

Effective January 1, 2019, corporate dues were increased by the NBGC Board of Directors to be no less than \$200 annually. Each corporate member in good standing shall be entitled to one proxy vote per year.

For questions, please contact Jeffrey Sadowski at jsadowski@nbgc.org.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

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2019 Contributors

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Bill Abplanalp Facebook -
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Bill Abplanalp at
847.826.1317 or bill@nbgc.org

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION WITH THE CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

Many companies encourage their employees to donate and volunteer time to nonprofits in their communities. Corporate social responsibility, (CSR), is an important factor in how the public perceives companies and their brands. While workplace giving contributes an estimated \$5 billion to U. S. charities each year, nonprofits such as the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club don't have access to the funds unless employees participate and designate us as the recipient.

Workplace giving can be set up in a variety of ways. Some of the more popular workplace giving programs offered by corporations include:

- Employee matching gifts
- Volunteer support programs
- Donations through payroll deduction
- Annual giving campaigns

Companies of all sizes match donations their employees make to nonprofits because it is an easy structured way for them to support good work in their communities. One of the most beneficial is an employee matching gift program. Check with your employer about whether your company offers this benefit. When an employee makes a donation, they will request the matching gift from their employer, who then makes their own donation. Most companies match donations at a 1:1 ratio, but some will match at a 2:1, 3:1 or even a 4:1 ratio. Corporate philanthropy programs are a great way to maximize the impact of your donation without having to reach back into your wallets, so make sure you take advantage of them!

Founded By Robert Buehler and Richard Valentin in 1931 for Carl Buehler

Save the Date! NBGC presents their 2020

Leaders of the Future Celebration



MAY 7, 2020 | 6 PM | DANK HAUS | 4740 N. WESTERN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL

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2019 Leaders of the Future Scholarship Fund & Dinner Donors

Founded By Robert Buehler and Richard Valent in 1931 for Carl Buehler

Where are they now? Past Scholarship Recipients



Julie Dakers

Back in 1990, Julie received a flyer on the front door of her home about a pilot girls program at the Neighborhood Boys Club. Julie became a part of the Twisters and played softball, basketball & volleyball. In 1994, Julie made the decision to join the Leadership program which only had 6 female leaders at the time. Julie loved the leadership program and worked her way up the ladder to Senior Leader and soon after she would be the League Director for a massive girls program and managing all 3 leagues! By 1997, Julie was able to apply for a college scholarship through NBGC's scholarship program and was an award recipient every year until 2003. Julie continued to work at NBGC throughout college, she attended DePaul University and Pacific Oaks College where she achieved her Bachelors degree in Human Development and an Advanced Certificate in Early Childhood Development. We had the chance to sit down with Julie to see how NBGC has made an impact on her life.

Where are you working? Director of Operations and Facilities, AHS Chicago

How did NBGC help you get to where you are today? At NBGC I was instilled with an unwavering work ethic and the importance of taking initiative. I learned teamwork, problem solving, planning, and most importantly responsibility. I learned very early on that I was a natural leader and NBGC helped me to refine my leadership skills and style. The club provided me with opportunities to take on great challenges. I learned from my failures and my successes.

Why is the NBGC Scholarship program important to you? The scholarship program made it possible for me to go to college. It allowed me to go to the college of my choice and complete my degree without an enormous amount of debt. It also made me feel like I worked for my scholarship and made me invested in my education.

In what ways are you giving back to NBGC today? Currently I volunteer on the scholarship committee, which continues to be one of my favorite experiences at NBGC. I love interviewing scholarship candidates every year and learning about how much of an impact the NBGC leadership program continues to have. My daughter began attending NBGC last summer and I look forward to continued engagement as she participates in NBGC in the coming years.



Jason Frumkin

Jason grew up as a Northcenter neighborhood kid and became an NBGC youth member in the early 1990's. Jason enjoyed playing football, basketball, floor hockey and baseball as both a Bobcat or Cougar in the Cadet league. In 1996, Jason decided to join the NBGC Leader ranks and follow in the footsteps of those who mentored him. Soon he was promoted to Senior Leader status and took on much more responsibility at NBGC. In the year 2000, Jason was awarded a scholarship in leadership which he used to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology where he achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. Jason is currently a member on the NBGC Associate Board and continues to volunteer and give back to NBGC. We caught up with him to see what he been up to and how NBGC helped him achieve his goals.

Where are you working? Iiviti is a financial tech company where I am Head of Application and Gateways Engineering, Americas. I manage a team of C++ software developers and quality engineers in the Chicago and Toronto area. for a financial technology company.

How did NBGC help you get to where you are today? Hard work, ownership, teamwork, and effective communication were requirements to be successful in both the sports and leadership programs at a young age. Building off of a strong foundation of these traits, while applying technical expertise and experience, has created many opportunities to advance in my career and manage teams globally.

Why is the NBGC Scholarship program important to you? The scholarship program gives an opportunity for under-privileged children to secure a portion of college tuition via a process that mirrors an actual job application process. Filling out documentation, interviewing, and networking with stakeholders at a young age prepares the youth for their upcoming career development and instills the experience and confidence to be successful. It is very important to provide this experience to the youth, as it provides an early introduction to what happens in adult life.

What was your favorite aspect while working as a Leader at NBGC? Connecting with children and families across different backgrounds from different neighborhoods and learning responsibility at an early age.



Victoria Rueda-Marshall

My name is Victoria Rueda-Marshall and I am currently a second semester senior at DePauw University. Prior to leaving for college, I worked as a leader/summer staff at NBGC since 2012, and I continue to work at the club during my breaks and summer vacations. With the skills I acquired from being a part of the leadership program, I have been able to make the most of my educational career. With my time at DePauw, I have managed a rigorous curriculum while maintaining Dean's List every semester. I have been a part of several extracurricular activities in which I have held several leadership positions, and I have taken the opportunity to partake in two short-term study abroad trips. Upon graduating, I will receive a baccalaureate degree with honors, *magna cum laude*, for a GPA of 3.7 and a major in Biology and minor in Chemistry. I am also extremely proud to say that I will continue my education at University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry with the ultimate goal of specializing in oral and maxillofacial surgery. I am incredibly excited to continue my studies in a field I have strived for since high school and I am looking forward to what the future holds.

We are actively looking for a great placement for Vicky to intern this summer that will allow her to gain experience in the dentistry profession. If anyone has leads for Vicky, please contact Bonnie Werstein at the Clubhouse, bonnie@nbgc.org.

We Raised the Roof on Giving Tuesday!

Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. This movement is celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and created as a day to show up for the causes and issues that matter most to you. We are incredibly excited to announce that thanks to four anonymous donors who provided a 2:1 match, and all the generous contributors, **our entire Giving Tuesday Campaign, from November 3rd to December 3rd, raised over \$56,000!**

Bonnie Werstein, our Director of Operations, went onto the NBGC roof on December 3rd, Giving Tuesday, at 11 am to raise awareness and vital funds for the NBGC. This idea came about as a bit of a joke at first between Finance Manager, **Julie Stone** and Executive Director, **Jeff Sadowski**. The pair brought Bonnie in on this antic and they soon realized this just might actually work! The purpose behind this ingenious idea was to raise awareness outside the clubhouse. People and cars passing by would see signs and a huge, wacky and waving inflatable sky-dancer we call "Little Phil" pointing them towards Bonnie on the roof. NBGC Staff took turns collecting donations outside on Irving Park Rd from passing cars and greeted community leaders, alumni, board members, parents and members as they made their donations.

Throughout the day, Bonnie was awarded extra items like a chair, blankets, coffee and food as each goal was met. Bonnie's biggest surprise of the night was when she was able to come down off the roof where she was greeted by her daughter and NBGC alumna, **Candice Werstein**, who drove all the way from Colorado to surprise her mom and give her Giving Tuesday donation. **Because of your generosity, we raised \$10,000 for NBGC and got Bonnie down from the roof in less than 8 hours!**

Your gifts are supporting the mission of the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club to provide a safe and supportive environment in the out-of-school hours, accessible to families and led by youth, for the youth. Our program is a community program, so you know that your support is making a difference close to home. We know that people have had their lives changed by the NBGC and we see them leave our doors stronger, kinder, and better than before.



#GIVINGTUESDAY



NBGC Director of Operations Bonnie Werstein



47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin visiting Bonnie on the roof



Founded By Robert Buehler and Richard Valentin in 1931 for Carl Buehler

Volunteering at NBGC

Ed Bass was a member of the NBC from 1947 until 1952 and played on the Cobras. He excelled in football and baseball. He fondly remembers his days playing at the club and even remembers pitching a no-hitter that was later featured in the alumni chatter! Ed attended Bateman Elementary School, Sullivan High School, and finally graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's degree in History. He recently visited Bateman and donated a trumpet for their music program.

Ed tells us one of the best things he ever did was start a business. Ed was a very successful businessman who ran 3 companies: an auto dealership, an auto financing company, and an insurance agency. The City of Chicago even named the street of his car dealership, Car Credit Center (7600 S. Western Avenue), after Ed. If you drive by there today, you will see the street sign: "Honorary Edward Bass Avenue."

Last year, Ed wanted to give back to the NBGC and started to volunteer at the club, so we gave him a tour of our building and our out-of-school sites, which have all changed since he was last here in 1952! Since then, he has helped with the distribution of the alumni chatter publication, assisted with the leader program and worked with our children in the afterschool program. Recently, our leaders wrote letters to Ed about leadership and Ed took the time to read and personally respond to each leader with advice about being a leader and wisdom from his personal experiences.

When he isn't volunteering at NBGC, Ed takes continuing education classes at Northwestern University and spends time with his wife Elinor and his two children, Sandie and Larry.

Are you interested in visiting NBGC to see how we've changed since you were last here? Contact Bill Abplanalp, Deputy Director of Development at bill@nbgc.org or Jeff Sadowski, Executive Director at jsadowski@nbgc.org.



Calling All NBGC Alumni!

Bill Abplanalp, Deputy Director of Development and Alumni Liaison, is interested in knowing how many alums remember the **YOU & ME** column from the weekly Monkeyshine publication. It was dedicated to what was happening with NBGC members throughout the week. Well, Bill would like to bring back the **YOU & ME** section in our Alumni Chatters, but he needs your assistance!

Please write or email Bill with your updates. You can also fill out the online alumni registration form in the alumni section at www.nbgc.org.

1. Your full name, including your maiden name, if applicable.
2. Your NBGC connection: Alumni & years involved, parent or guardian of alumni, grandparent of alumni or other connection?
3. What activities were you involved in during your time as an NBC/NBGC member?
4. What are your fondest memories of your time with NBC/NBGC?
5. Where did life take you after leaving NBGC?
6. What are you currently doing? Working? Retired?
7. If applicable, were your siblings involved with the club? If yes, what are their names?
8. If applicable, what is your spouse's name?
9. If applicable, what are your children's names?
10. If applicable, what are your grandchildren's names?
11. What is your email address?
12. What is your home, work or mobile number?
13. Is there any additional info you would like to share about you, your time with NBC/NBGC or your family?
14. Are you still in touch with any alumni? If applicable, please list.
15. Do you have an old picture or current picture you would like to share?

By sharing the above information with Bill, you are giving the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club permission to publish your stories and/or pictures in future Alumni Chatters or other publications. The NBGC will never share your contact info with fellow alumni or to companies.

Bill would like to get the ball rolling and connect with NBGC alumni! You can email him at bill@nbgc.org or write him at:

NBGC
C/O Bill Abplanalp
2501 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60618

In Memory of those we recently lost

September

Jim Kelly - alum
James Deffet - father of board member
Carl Wenzler - grandfather of alums
Bob Emmerich - alum

October

Tom Benson - alum
Karl Himplemann - alum
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Debbie Milbrandt - wife of alum
Eric Velaquez - parent
Fr. Raymond "Skip" Baumhart—alum & NBGC hall of famer
Scott Feaman - NBGC parent, grandparent

November

Gery Ottesen - parent & NBGC hall of famer
Lois Doyle - parent of alum

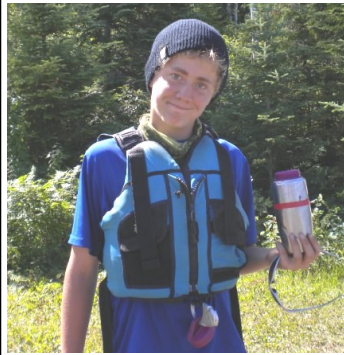
December

Don Schmitz - alum
Michael Ritt - alum

February

Charlie Sullivan - alum

**Memorial notices can be sent to
bonnie@nbgc.org**



Charlie Sullivan

This past February, the NBGC community suffered the tragic loss of a former NBGC member and youth leader. Charlie Sullivan joined NBGC as a Locust in 2004 at the age of 8 along with his neighborhood friends. He loved playing sports and making new friends with members of the other teams. At the age of 13, Charlie was welcomed into the NBGC Leadership Program ranks which allowed him to acquire a sense of responsibility, self-esteem and build long lasting friendships. He was an active leader until his passion for baseball, music and poetry took up the majority of his time. We at NBGC count

ourselves fortunate to have known Charlie and watch him thrive.

NBGC strives to make a safe space for our youth & teens, but we also recognize that danger continues to exist outside of our walls. We can hope that one day, our endless concern for the safety of our youth will fade; hope that youth and teens find fulfillment through positive relationships and wholesome fun. In the mean time, NBGC can help make a positive difference by spreading awareness to our community.

We wanted to share a letter written by Charlie's father regarding the circumstances of his passing in the hope that we can shine a light on this issue and protect others from this heartbreak.



Charlie and the guys (Chris, Phil, Tim & Zac) on a leader trip to the Boundary Waters in 2010

"The Elephant in the Room"

Author: Brendan Sullivan

Perhaps these facts can help save one person's life, and save one other family from this unfathomable pain.

Our son, we have learned in the last few days, occasionally used cocaine 'recreationally.' Cocaine is more popular today than we naive parents realized, readily available and more common than we ever expected. Perhaps you have used cocaine? Perhaps your child has? Perhaps your child has and you don't know? Talk to them.

Our son was trusting of other people, and always saw the best in everyone. We know that he could not imagine that someone out there would knowingly hand him a drug that might kill him. Fentanyl is an opioid pain medication, a narcotic that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. It is prescribed for late stage cancer patients experiencing extreme pain. Misuse of fentanyl can cause death, especially when used without a prescription or when combined with other drugs including alcohol.

Street fentanyl, primarily manufactured illegally in Mexico, is added to cocaine and heroin by drug dealers to increase its potency, to "enhance your high". However, most users have no idea that they are using fentanyl, often resulting in overdose deaths. You only have to use it once.

In 2019, more people in Cook County, Illinois died of a fentanyl overdose (789) than were killed by guns (580). This is a cruel epidemic which we fear does not get the attention and outrage it deserves because its victims were using an illegal drug so 'they should have known better.'

Our son did not take his own life deliberately, and he was not an addict. He was a young man who made one bad decision last week. If you or your family are dealing with suicide or addiction, our hearts go out to you. Our prayers are with you. These are also huge problems in our community that should be given more attention.

Talk to your children. Listen to your children. Hug them, and tell them you love them. And feel free to share this message with the world.

NBGC presents their 51st Annual

Golf Outing



Monday, July 20, 2020

The Links at Carillon | 21200 S. Carillon Dr. Plainfield, IL

12 pm registration & lunch
1 pm shotgun start
6 pm dinner, awards, and raffle

Individual Golfer: \$125
Foursome: \$500
Dinner Only: \$40

**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

Contact executive director
Jeff Sadowski at jsadowski@nbgc.org
or 773-463-4161 for more information!

Founded By Robert Buehler and Richard Valentin in 1931 for Carl Buehler

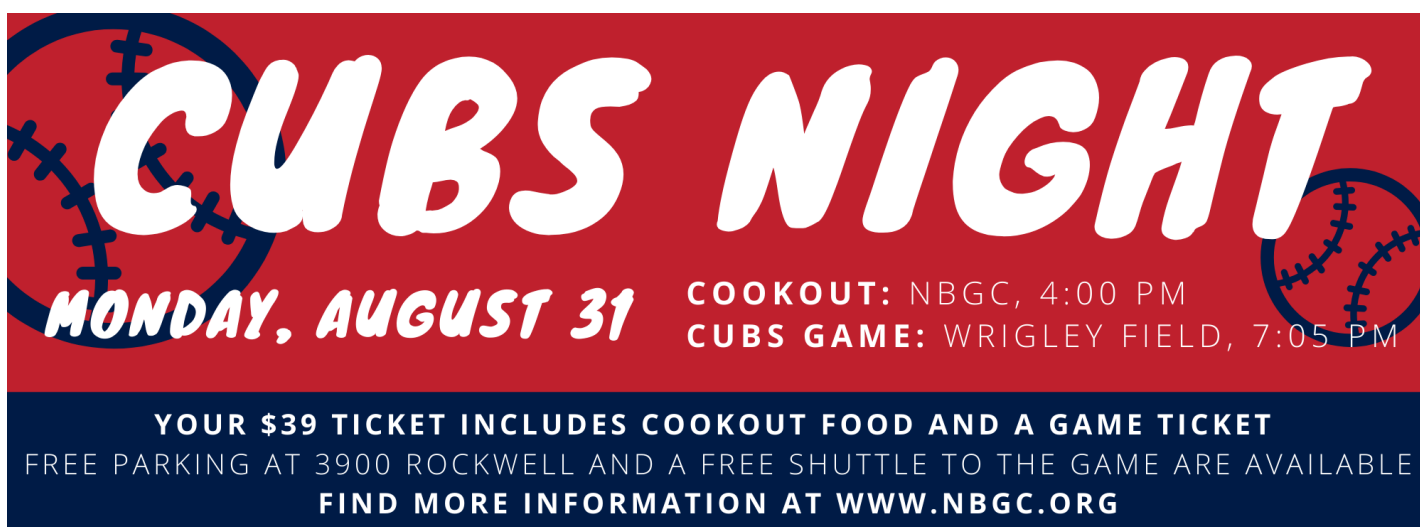
NBGC BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The clubhouse will be undergoing some much needed renovations starting on September 8, 2020. The NBGC building will be closed for two months and is scheduled to re-open on November 8, 2020.

**ALL FALL SPORTS AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
WILL CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED DURING THIS TIME**

Need to contact a member of our staff?

Executive Director	Jeffrey Sadowski	jsadowski@nbgc.org
Director of Operations	Bonnie Werstein	bonnie@nbgc.org
Finance Manager	Julie Stone	finance@nbgc.org
Director of Social Programming	Maria Gomez	maria@nbgc.org
Director of Leadership	Bess McGeorge	bess@nbgc.org
Athletics Director	Tim Jensen	tjensen@nbgc.org



CUBS NIGHT
MONDAY, AUGUST 31 **COOKOUT: NBGC, 4:00 PM**
CUBS GAME: WRIGLEY FIELD, 7:05 PM

YOUR \$39 TICKET INCLUDES COOKOUT FOOD AND A GAME TICKET
 FREE PARKING AT 3900 ROCKWELL AND A FREE SHUTTLE TO THE GAME ARE AVAILABLE
FIND MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.NBGC.ORG

Did you know?
 When you shop through Amazon Smile, Amazon donates a portion of your purchase directly to a charity!



To set it up on your Amazon account, simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase to the NBGC at no cost to you.

★ Save the Dates! ★

Leaders of the Future Celebration: May 7, 2020

51st Annual Golf Outing: July 20, 2020

Cubs Night: August 31, 2020

2020 Hall of Fame Dinner: October 16, 2020

FOLLOW US TO LEARN MORE!



www.nbgc.org




Neighborhood
Boys & Girls
Club



[nbgc_1931](https://www.instagram.com/nbgc_1931)

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