



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LAWRENCE**

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SUMMER 2022

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CLUB NEWS

Youth of The Year!

From being a shy, quiet, and nervous 7-year-old walking through the doors of the Club 11 years ago, Faith has grown into an intelligent, impressive, and trailblazing young adult. After being selected as the Club's Youth of The Year, she won this competition's state and regional titles. In August, she will be heading to Washington D.C to compete for the national championship.

As a recent graduate of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Faith will attend Amherst College in the fall, hoping to gain the necessary skills to guide her on her journey to becoming a defense attorney or congresswoman. With interests in politics, social justice, and psychology, to name a few, her goal is to become an advocate and voice for marginalized communities.



Growing up in Lawrence, she deeply appreciates the Club and those who take the time out of their lives to help marginalized kids.

"I have made deep connections with Club staff and members so it will be tough to leave this place behind come September. In reality, I know that once you are a Club kid, you will always be a Club kid—no matter where life takes you!" she said. A fantastic speaker, she is highly passionate about the topics that motivate her. We do not doubt that Faith's passion will help her to achieve her life goals.

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope all of you enjoyed a great summer. Here at the Club, we are again preparing for the upcoming school year. This includes renovating our facilities and planning the annual school year program schedule. This is our routine this time of the year. However, when our kids return from their vacation break this time around, one thing will be different. Steve Kelley, our Associate Director, will not be there to welcome them back.

After dedicating 56 years of his life to supporting Lawrence's youth, Steve has decided to retire at the end of August. The impact he had on the lives of thousands of youth members has been nothing short of amazing. Steve's ability to guide and motivate kids to succeed in school is unparalleled. As a program innovator, he was the one that helped us establish many of our key programs, like the Academic Basketball Program, which combines basketball and academic requirements. Planning for the Future, our career readiness, college preparation program, and the Homework Assistance Program, among others.

Please join us on October 18th at the Andover Country Club to celebrate Steve's retirement. Tickets can be purchased through the Club. Looking forward, our challenge will be to keep Steve's legacy alive for many years. To honor Steve and his life's work, we are establishing the Steve Kelley Legacy Education Fund to support the Club's educational programs and initiatives well into the future. Please consider honoring Steve by donating to the Steve Kelley Legacy Education Fund.

Sincerely,
Markus Fischer

For questions or comments, contact:

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SUMMER BREAD LOAF!

The Power of Friendship

Summer Bread Loaf kicked off in early July with the theme of friendship! Over two weeks, volunteers and teachers from across the Merrimack Valley ran writing and art workshops on the meaning of true friendship.

Each day followed the theme of friendship through different activities. The kids wrote imaginative poems, retellings of dreams, and what type of superhero they'd be. They also participated in such projects as making their favorite foods from clay and writing a friendship magazine with two employees from Elevated Thought, a social justice nonprofit in Lawrence. Other workshops included theater and improv, music exercises, and teamwork.

Additionally, some of our members went on a field trip to the Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy in Andover. "I love Bread Loaf. Learning how to write creatively and go on new field trips is fun. My favorite activity was creating my favorite food. I made rice, beans, and ketchup," Orlando, age 12, said.

The summer workshop ended with a celebration where parents and families got the opportunity to listen to and view their child's work. We can't wait to see what the kids create next summer!



SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!



With about 75 kids and two school buses, our members ventured out into the world this summer! These kids were busy exploring new territory with beach trips, amusement parks, boat rides, and sporting events.

Our members went to the beach on hot days, where they swam, built sandcastles, and played water sports. They also enjoyed water slides and thrill rides at Water Country and Canobie Lake Park!

During whale week at the Club, the kids went whale watching out of Boston, where they saw a few whales and a lone shark! Local meteorologist Eric Fisher from Channel 4 gave the kids

some marine biology facts during the ride. Another boating excursion saw the kids at Thompson Island, sightseeing and enjoying the views of Boston Harbor.

Some members had never experienced any of these outings before and were so grateful to the Club for providing them. Max, age 10, said, "I am so happy that my parents brought me to the Club. I can do things that I never thought I would. I can't believe I saw a shark and was on TV!"

We are so glad we can provide our members with these first-time experiences. Maybe one of our kids will catch a baseball next summer during a Red Sox game!

Piano, Guitar, and More!

With piano, guitar, and drums shaking up the building, the Club has been a music house! Our members love music and always listen to it in the Technology Center. They also create their own songs and beats in the recording studio. Our part-time staff employee Jordan S., took on the challenge of teaching our kids music.

Jordan has been teaching piano, guitar, and drums twice a week, and the budding program has been a success! Most kids are eager to learn the piano and guitar, and Jordan teaches them how to read sheet music as well as how to play by ear. Along with the instrument lessons, we recently signed on Wiktoria S., a voice instructor who has been teaching the kids how to train their voices through breath control and other techniques. Shira M. and Eleanor T. provide extra help teaching the drums and piano, respectively.

Music is vital for child development as it helps the body and mind work together. Hopefully, we will soon witness the kids using their new talents!



THANK YOU, STEVE!

A Legend is Retiring

After serving 56 years at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, Steve Kelley is retiring and leaving behind a powerful legacy. As a former Club kid, Steve understands the importance of mentorship and guidance. Whether helping our members to write speeches; coaching them on the court; or guiding them with his inimitable wisdom – he has built long-lasting, deep connections with the youth of Lawrence, which have followed them on every path of their lives.

A kind, humorous, and caring man, Steve is central to the Club's success. His commitment to education was so vigorous that he created several of the Club's established educational programs. "With education comes growth and knowledge," he says.

We will remember Steve as the man whose office door was always open and inviting; where kids were seen chatting, laughing, and telling jokes; where staff went to gather information and stayed for the long, detailed, stimulating stories; and where alums went whenever they came to visit.

We will miss seeing Steve around the Club, snapping photos, and brightening up the room, but we know that all of his accomplishments will never go unnoticed. To honor Steve's legacy, the Club created the Steve Kelley Legacy Education Fund to ensure that future generations of Lawrence youth will benefit from his belief in education as crucial to a happy, healthy and productive life!

Thank you, Steve, for all that you've done. The Club wouldn't be what it is today without you.

