



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF BLOOMINGTON**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BLOOMINGTON SET TO HOST THIRD ANNUAL  
“SMART GIRLS, STRONG WOMEN”**

**Bloomington, Ind.** – Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington will host “SMART Girls, STRONG Women,” a fundraiser to provide crucial funding to support female-centered programming at the Club. The third annual event will be held on Thursday, July 18th, 6:00-8:00 PM, and will emanate from the historic Lincoln Street Club.

“This is one of our marquee events each year and promises to leave our guests with a true sense of inspiration,” commented Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington Executive Director, Jeff Baldwin. “The importance of this event cannot be underscored enough. SMART Girls, STRONG Women allows the Club to provide remarkable and necessary education to females. Additionally, this event gives the Club a public platform to educate the community further on the work our staff performs on a daily basis mentoring kids, especially those who need us most.”

Aside from a catered dinner and dessert, guests of the event will be treated to a unique panel discussion, which will include five female community leaders. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana Chancellor Jennie Vaughan returns as the event’s Emcee, and Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County President and CEO Tina Peterson will serve as Moderator. The distinguished panel will include Courtney Payne-Taylor, Janis Stockhouse and Dr. Lori Thompson.

Payne-Taylor, a native of Bloomington, is the founder of Girls Riders Organization - a non-profit which teaches girls how to skateboard. Payne-Taylor’s unique story of how, in her own words, skateboarding saved her life along with her heroic activism of mentoring over 20,000 girls has been nationally featured on NBC News and ESPNW.

Janis Stockhouse, the legendary band director at Bloomington High School North, recently retired after a 40+ year career. Her historic legacy includes leading BHSN to 33 Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) State Finals appearances. Additionally, Stockhouse guided the band to two ISSMA State Championships, nine runner-up finishes and 20 Top-5 placements.

Regarded as one of the area's top medical minds, Dr. Thompson is a Board Certified Family Physician with Indiana University Health. With 25 years of experience, Dr. Thompson has revolutionized family healthcare in Bloomington. Recently, Dr. Thompson received both the Compassionate Doctor Recognition honor and Patients' Choice Award.

“These five women have a passion to advance female-centered programming and opportunities. We are so honored to have them for our event,” said Baldwin. “Guests will be treated to stories of perseverance, professional failures, personal successes and everything in between.”

The event will conclude with an auction of various experiences and prizes, along with a Fund-In-Need.

The proceeds of SMART Girls, STRONG Women go directly to funding the programmatic needs of SMART Girls, which is a health, fitness, prevention/education and self-esteem enhancement program for girls ages 8-17. The program offers young Club women guidance toward healthy attitudes and lifestyles, eating right, staying fit, seeking proper feminine health care and maintaining positive relationships.

Limited tickets are still available and can be purchased online at [www.bgcbloomington/2019sgsw](http://www.bgcbloomington/2019sgsw) or by calling the Club at (812) 332-5311, ext. 216.

#### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington is an organization dedicated to empowering all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens. The club operates three units serving youth in Monroe County: Lincoln Street, Ferguson Crestmont, and Ellettsville. Offering low annual rates, the club is a place where all local youth can safely learn, grow, and become the adults of tomorrow. Focusing on Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character & Active Citizenship, programming at the Club is enriching and varied, led by professional staff and volunteers. To learn more about programs and events at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington or to make a donation, visit [www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org), call [812-332-5311](tel:812-332-5311), or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

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