



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BLOOMINGTON**

NEWS RELEASE

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BLOOMINGTON TEAMS WITH THE WISHING
TREE FOUNDATION TO HOST CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY EVENT**

Bloomington, Ind. – Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington, in partnership with the Lindsey O'Brien (LOK) Wishing Tree Foundation and First Alert, will host a public Carbon Monoxide Awareness event at the historic Lincoln Street Club on Thursday, October 17th. The free community event begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until 6:30 p.m. at the Club, which is located at 311 S. Lincoln Street in downtown Bloomington.

“This is a must-attend event for our community,” commented Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington Executive Director, Jeff Baldwin. “The Wishing Tree Foundation is setting the stage for us to educate the community on the dangers of CO poisoning. We are so thankful that the Club has been chosen to serve as a platform for raising awareness, and we so appreciate the efforts of Lindsey’s family, along with First Alert and the Bloomington Fire Department, for helping us execute this free event for the community.”

Lindsey was a big sister at the Club before she graduated from Indiana University and moved to Arizona in 2010. Sadly, she died later that year from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning at the young age of 22. Lindsey’s mother Dot Kesling reached out to Lindsey’s little sister at the Club to break the news and out of that connection, a seed was planted to help keep the kids Lindsey cared about safe from this harmful “Silent Killer,” so named because it is odorless, colorless and otherwise not detectable except with a CO alarm.

From that seed, an award winning LOK Performing Arts Program (LOKPAP) as well as the CO safety program has blossomed. Charlie Brown was a LOKPAP scholarship recipient as well as a long-time CO safety advocate. Now a young adult himself, he returns to the Club as a mentor, along with his own former mentor, Anthony Hilb, a Bloomington resident and business owner who was a friend and classmate of Lindsey’s.

“This program provides our teen members an opportunity to engage with the community at-large while also providing a chance for them to mentor younger Club members,” said Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington Community Engagement Director, Brett Hoffman. Hoffman noted that during each month, the Club has a specific focus of programmatic education and through October, they will focus on carbon monoxide awareness.

About the Wishing Tree Foundation

The LOK Wishing Tree Foundation’s goal is to empower the next generation to keep themselves and those they

love safe from the dangers of CO. Says LOK Founder Dot Kesling, “Engaging these teens, educating them about carbon monoxide and providing the tools necessary to speak with the public about this life-saving topic is our brightest and best hope. Indiana is currently one of a handful of states that has no statewide building code requirements for CO alarms in residential or commercial buildings, making their efforts all the more critical.” To learn more about carbon monoxide and to receive a 20% discount on select CO alarms from visit LOK Wishing Tree Foundation’s website: www.lokwishingtree.org.

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.bgcbbloomington.org, call (812) 332-5311, or follow the Club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

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