

NEWS RELEASE

P.O. Box 1716, Bloomington, IN 47402 • PHONE: (812) 332-5311 • WEB: www.bgcbloomington.org

For more information: Jeff Baldwin, Executive Director (812) 332-5311 ext. 212 jbaldwin@bgcbloomington.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/13/2020

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BLOOMINGTON ALTERS OPERATIONS DUE TO GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

Bloomington, Ind. – In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been raised to a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington announced changes for upcoming engagement, volunteer, community events and traditional youth services conducted in conjunction with the Club's operations.

"While these are certainly unprecedented times full of uncertainty, safety remains our top priority as an organization," said Jeff Baldwin, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington. "We are taking a hard look at how and when we can meet the critical needs of our local families. Our resolve to join in the fight to mitigate this crisis is stronger than ever."

→ Lemonade Day *Presented by Cook Medical* Kick-Off Extravaganza

(March 28th | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

The Kick-Off Extravaganza at all Bloomington Kroger locations **IS CANCELLED**. Online registration for Lemonade Day will commence as scheduled; Monroe County youth may register for this free community event online starting on Saturday, March 28th. Club officials will work closely with Kroger representatives in finding an alternative event registration date for late-Spring. Additionally, Lemonade Day University will no longer be held at Ivy Tech Community College and will be relocated to the Club on a date to be determined.

→ Quarterly Volunteer Call-Out Session

(April 4th | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.)

This quarterly session **IS CANCELLED**. The next Volunteer Call-Out Session, which will be in the summer, will be announced in the coming weeks.

→ Alumni & Friends Club: Day of Service @ Camp Rock

(April 18th | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

This event **remains on**.

→ The Father Daughter Dance Presented by Rogers Group

(*April 18th* | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

This event <u>IS POSTPONED</u> to a later date, yet to be determined. Current registered guests will retain their spot to attend the dance once the new date is set. At that time, current guests and those on the waitlist will receive new information via email and Facebook.

→ Cooking Challenge: Baking Bonanza - Engagement

(April 21st | 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.)

This event <u>remains on</u> as long as the Lincoln Street Club is operational that day. If this engagement activity is postponed, we will post updates on our website (<u>www.bgcbloomington.org/engagement</u>) and will notify all volunteers who are currently registered.

→ Annual Club Awards Ceremony

(*April 30th* | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.)

This event **IS POSTPONED** to a later date, yet to be determined. Unit Directors will disperse the new date, once solidified, to all Club members and families.

→ Wine Fest *Presented by Big Red Liquors*

(May 1st, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)

Big Red Liquors representatives and Club officials are currently working closely with Deer Park Manor to assess this event. Once a firm direction is in place, information and ticket availability will be posted online.

→ Cooking Challenge: Veg Out - Engagement

(May 5th, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.)

This event <u>remains on</u> as long as the Ellettsville Club is operational that day. If this engagement activity is postponed, we will post updates on our website (<u>www.bgcbloomington.org/engagement</u>) and will notify all volunteers who are currently registered.

→ SMART Girls, STRONG Women Presented by Comprehensive Financial Consultants (May 14th, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.)

This event **IS POSTPONED** to a later date, yet to be determined. Once the new date has been solidified, information on how to purchase tickets for this important fundraiser will be posted online and via the Club's social media network

These changes are in addition to the previously announced plans in which all three units (Lincoln Street, Ferguson Crestmont and Ellettsville) will not be providing programming to youth on Friday, March 13. All three units, along with Camp Rock, will be suspending Club programming to youth for the duration of Spring Break (March 16-20) and the immediate week after (March 23-27). Additionally, to align with the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation, the Ellettsville Club will suspend programming to youth for the week of March 30-April 3.

The Club will reassess the situation for the Lincoln Street and Ferguson Crestmont Clubs on Friday, March 27, and will come to a determination about whether or not to resume programming for youth. Similarly, an assessment at the Ellettsville Club will be done on Friday, April 3.

All three Club units will maintain Membership Desk availability during program suspension. It is advised that patrons call ahead to ensure a staff member is present at the Membership Desk to field questions and concerns.

Available hours of Membership Desk operation for Club staff only are as follows:

- → **Lincoln Street Club**: M-F, 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | (812) 332-2970
- → Ferguson Crestmont Club: M-F, 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | (812) 336-6501
- → Ellettsville Club: M-F, 12:00 5:00 p.m. | (812) 935-6970

The Kenworthy Administration Center will remain open for regular business hours during this time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Feel free to contact the Kenworthy Admin staff at (812) 332-5311 with questions or concerns.

The Club will use this time to continue daily efforts in ensuring all Club spaces are thoroughly cleaned. Any and all updates to these proceedings will be posted via social media on the official Facebook page of the Boys & Girls of Bloomington, www.facebook.com/bgcbtown, and online at www.bgcbloomington.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.bgcbloomington.org, call 812-332-5311, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!