



Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County | Spring 2020

## WHATEVER IT TAKES: COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County is able to be on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to make sure that now, more than ever, we are here for the kids and families who need us the most.

### EMERGENCY CHILDCARE.

Beginning when public schools closed due to the spread of COVID-19, Clubs made the decision at the recommendation of Central District Health to remain open to families who did not have the option to stay home. In response, our Clubs transitioned services to provide **full-day emergency childcare and meals** to children of healthcare workers, first responders, and essential community personnel.

We have been working closely with community partners such as Central District Health to ensure the **highest safety protocols**, including deep cleaning of our facilities, low staff-to-member ratios, social distancing at all times, face masks, and daily temperature checks. We also collaborated **with Boise School District** to expand services and keep ratios lower by opening two additional childcare sites, bringing our total emergency child care sites to **seven sites**.

### FOOD FOR KIDS.

Every day we are distributing nearly **2,000 free grab-and-go break-**

**fasts and lunches** to any child in our community, ages 1 -18, at three drive-through locations in Nampa, Garden City, and Meridian.

"The families are so grateful," says Club Nutrition Director Tracy Yost. "You can see the look of relief on the parents' faces when you hand them a healthy meal. It's a very rewarding experience."



### FOOD PANTRY.

Clubs are serving as a hub for community services. We are accepting donations of food, which families can obtain in our lobbies each day. We are also sharing important resources and information with parents to help them cope with COVID-19-related issues including job loss, lack of food, and mental health issues.

The Club is committed to doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to ensure the safety of our members, while supporting critical basic nutritional needs of local children. Thank you for the role you have played in allowing us to continue these services.

# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## OFFICERS

Todd Cooper  
President

Gary Smith  
Vice-President

Ann Swindell  
Treasurer

Linda Payne Smith  
Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Arnold  
Brenda Blitman  
Tammy de Weerd  
Coby Dennis  
Darin Driscoll  
Keely Duke  
Lance Elroy  
Tricia Flynn  
Mark Freeman  
Laree Goodman  
Todd Grande  
Sylvia Hampel  
Jeff Huhn  
Mark Johnson  
Flip Kleffner  
Nick Korte  
Dave McFadyen  
Steve Patterson  
James Pegram  
Rob Perez  
Stacy Pewe  
Katie Riley  
Brad Stith  
Jesse Steiner  
Shannon Stoeger  
Charles Wilson  
Brian Wonderlich

Dear Friends,

I hope this update finds you and your family safe and healthy. As I'm sure you can relate, our lives here at the Boys & Girls Clubs have been turned upside down by the COVID-19 virus. It's hard to believe that just a short time ago we were busy preparing for our Wild West Auction, and working on new program ideas for the kids. As the landscape continues to change on us daily, sometimes multiple times a day, I find myself thinking that this is a really difficult time to be a person who likes to plan!

But it's not all bad news. In fact, I am more proud of our Clubs and more hopeful for the future than ever before. As it turns out, you find how strong your team truly is during a pandemic. And I found that our team - board and staff - responds heroically, with courage and commitment. Their dedication to serving kids throughout the crisis has been humbling, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

We have a saying here at Boys & Girls Clubs... it's about doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES**. And now we know a little more about what it takes. It takes bravery, and putting aside fears for your own safety in order to ensure the safety of children and the viability of their families. It takes an agreement by all that when we say ***we are here for the kids who need us most***, that we stand by that statement and we don't retreat into our shell at the very time that they need us the most. And it takes a boldness in telling the community that we are here to be of service, but we need their help more than ever before. Because without that help, our doors would have to shut. Thankfully, our community has heard our call and has continued to respond in ways we never thought possible.

On behalf of our board and staff, **THANK YOU** to everyone who has reached out to help kids and families during what is certainly one of the most difficult times in recent history. Your unwavering support of the Boys & Girls Club at the time when ***we need you the most*** is deeply and gratefully appreciated. God bless you all. Please stay safe!

In service to youth,



Colleen Braga  
Executive Director

P.S. I wanted to add an ***extra thanks*** to the donors who have given the Club cash donations over the past couple of months. While this has been a difficult time, you have been such a blessing. Thank you!



## CLUB LOCATIONS

**Moseley Center Club**  
610 E 42nd St.  
Garden City, ID 83714

**Meridian Club**  
911 N Meridian Road  
Meridian, ID 83642

**Kuna Club**  
Ross Elementary  
610 N School Ave  
Kuna, ID 83634

**Peregrine Unit**  
Peregrine Elementary  
1860 W Waltman St.  
Meridian, ID 83642

**Desert Sage Unit**  
Desert Sage Elementary  
9325 W Mossywood Dr.  
Boise, ID 83709

**Hawthorne Pop-Up Unit**  
Hawthorne Elementary  
2401 W Targee St.  
Boise, ID 83705

**Koelsch Pop-Up Unit**  
Koelsch Elementary  
2015 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706

**Administration Offices**  
Yanke Bettis Business Center  
610 E 42nd St.  
Garden City, ID 83714



### Working together to find solutions.

It started with a phone conversation between our Executive Director and Nora Carpenter, CEO of the [United Way of Treasure Valley](#). In that call, Colleen expressed concerns that the Club was running out of food to serve at our grab-and-go meal sites due to problems with the food supply chain. An hour later, and through a chance conversation between Nora and Donna Johnson of [Miles of Smiles Free Children's Dentistry](#), a solution was found!



That solution was a TRUCKLOAD of fresh apples, oranges, limes, yogurt, and string cheese being donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County by [Nicholas and Company Inc. Foodservice](#)! There was SO MUCH FOOD in fact, that the Club has enough to last for quite a while, AND enough to give out to families who attend our three meal sites. On the first day of distribution, Club staff gave out 600 pounds of fruit with many more deliveries to go!



### Papa Murphy's gives out 1,500 pizzas to families.

Thank you to our [Treasure Valley Papa Murphy's Pizza](#) franchisees and our special donors, [Brian King \(RBC\)](#), [Bob Wheeler \(Cutting Edge\)](#), and [Andy Beitia \(Washington Trust Bank\)](#) for providing a surprise treat to families who attend our grab and go meal sites: free, family-sized cheese and pepperoni pizzas! In just the first three weeks, 1,500 pizzas have been given out to grateful families. The Papa Murphy's pizzas have been so appreciated that additional donors have signed up to provide the funding to keep the pizzas coming for another full month! A big thanks to [Shane Hanson](#) and his team at [Progression Athletics International](#), [Idaho Roofing Contractors](#), [UBS Financial](#), [Roofing Supply Group](#), [Strive Wealth & Protection Planning](#), [Leslie Wood](#), [Josh Moffis](#), [Hawke Financial Group](#), [Mass Mutual \(Paul R. Hales\)](#), [Darby Heidemann](#), [Jackie Taylor](#), [Pacific Supply](#), [Lia T. Dunne](#), [Steven E. Sundberg](#), [Christopher Ellis](#) and [BR Wealth Management](#) for bringing the joy of pizza to families.



### First Interstate Bank hands out free Flatbread sandwiches for parents.

Volunteers from [First Interstate Bank](#) were at the Garden City and Meridian Clubs today giving out lunches from Flatbread! First Interstate Bank purchased lunches from Flatbread to surprise the parents. This happened during our grab-and-go meal service, which covers breakfast and lunch for youth ages 1 to 18. The parents were so surprised and happy to get a meal for themselves. A big thanks to [Jeff Huhn](#) and the team at [First Interstate Bank](#) for caring about our kids AND their parents!



### Ada County Youth of the Year Announced.

Steeve Biondolillo was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to an impoverished family who could not afford to raise four children, and he was left in an orphanage at the age of four. Three days after a 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti, Steeve and his brother were adopted by a wonderful American couple, who brought them to the U.S. to begin a new life.

Steeve moved to Idaho in 2012, when he first joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County. He enjoyed serving as a leader in the Jr. Staff program. He also became involved in the Torch Club and Keystone Club programs, in which he was able to give back to his community through a variety of service projects.

Steeve aspires to attend Idaho State University to pursue a degree in Wildlife Biology to help animals. He also dreams of learning carpentry so he can travel back to Haiti and other developing countries to build homeless shelters. Steeve knows that the key to changing the world begins with making a difference in the life of just one person—and he vows to be that change.

**“The Boys & Girls Club taught me that the key to changing the world begins with making a difference in the life of just one person. I'm going to be that change.”**  
-Steeve Biondolillo



Youth of the year candidates are recognized for their leadership, service to their Club and community, strong academic performance, and healthy lifestyle choices. We are beyond proud of this incredible young man and his achievements in our Club and community.

### John F. Nagel Foundation provides funding for a teen workforce readiness program.

Did you know that more than 75% of youth express concerns about whether or not they have the skills necessary to secure a job and only 34% believe that they will graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the job market? In order to help Club teens develop a path to a career, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County is launching a teen workforce readiness program made possible by a grant from the [John F. Nagel Foundation](#). Through this initiative, Club youth will be more prepared to enter college and/or the workforce, and local employers will look to

Clubs as partners in preparing the next generation of employees and business leaders.

We are pleased to announce that Lindsay Blaser has been hired as our new Workforce Development Coordinator. Lindsey has worked with Club teens for over 10 years as our Meridian Teen Coordinator and will now transition into this position, for which she has a real passion. “The favorite part of my job over the years has been to help

teens explore new skills and talents and to prepare them as they transition to adulthood. Having an intentional focus on helping them find a path to a viable career is the next important step in fulfilling our mission.” We are excited about this new program and the important part it will play in ensuring more kids have a better chance at a GREAT FUTURE!





## Surprise Estate Gift helps the Club during a very difficult time.

When John and Shirley Wieneke sat down to make their estate plans many years ago, they could not have known the miraculous impact their decisions would make on one of their favorite charities, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County. The Wienekes were long-time Garden City residents who had seen firsthand the impact of the Boys & Girls Club on local youth. John was a mail carrier, who loved to volunteer in the community. He especially loved helping out, whenever possible, at the Garden City Police Department. It was there he heard about how the Club keeps kids safe and how their efforts were decreasing juvenile crime.

According to Kelly Wood, Family Wealth Planner at Wood Tarver Financial, the Wienekes never wavered in their plans to name the Boys & Girls Club as a beneficiary in their will. "Over the years, they made several changes, but the Boys & Girls Club was the one organization that never changed."

The unexpected bequest came at a critical time for the Club. "It was during the onset of the COVID-19 crisis that we learned of the gift," said Colleen Braga, Executive Director. "We were questioning whether we would have the money to remain open for the kids during the crisis. The answer came in a phone call from Wood Tarver Financial informing us of the Wieneke's gift. It truly was a miracle."

John and Shirley, we hope you are pleased at how your gift is helping us at the time when we need help the most. Although we never had the chance to meet, you will forever be in our hearts and minds. Thank you for caring about kids in our community. You are a blessing.



## From Lost to Found.



Tony Moody was walking the greenbelt and accidentally dropped \$500 out of his wallet. When he went back to find it, carefully retracing every step, the money was gone. He decided to stop into local businesses near the Boys & Girls Club in Garden City to see if anyone had turned in the money.

To his complete surprise, two teenage girls on their way to the Club picked up the \$500 cash and turned it in to the business owner. Tony was so happy to not only get his money back but also overjoyed that two teen girls in Garden City would have the goodwill to turn in the money.

In honor of the girls' goodwill and character, he held an art show at the Art Source Gallery in downtown Boise where he held a private fundraising event for the Boys & Girls Clubs. Thanks for the wonderful donation, Tony!

## In Lieu of Gifts.

Congratulations to Mike and Rebecca Lane, who were married on February 15, 2020. In lieu of gifts, they asked their wedding guests to consider a donation to the Boys & Girls Club –Kuna Unit. When asked why they support the Clubs, Mike simply said, "It has been a pleasure supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs over the years." He also mentioned some special friends like the Yamamotos and Gordons, friends from Micron, and Club board members like Stacy Pewe and Mark Freeman.

Thanks again Mike and Rebecca. We wish you a very long and happy life together.



# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

## MAJOR INVESTMENTS

Thank you to the people, businesses, and foundations who have made cash donations over \$500 in the month of March and April.

Melanie Alderson

**Allegis Foundation**

**Angels Among Us**

Sara Alzheimer

Alice Antonioli

Jeffrey Beasley

Debbie Bennett

William & Cecelia Blewett

**Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health**

Boise Cascade Company

Boise Fire Fighters –Local 149

**Brighton Corporation**

Steven and Briana Buban-Vonder Haar

**Cambia Health Solutions Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation**

Carolyn Cannon

CapEd Credit Union

Larry and Shirley Chetwood

**Citi**

City of Trees Real Estate Team

Dustin and Kristen Colter

**COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Idaho in the ICF**

Tom Davis

Tammy and Jan de Weerd

**Will and Angela Dilmore**

Dan and Ying Donegan

Enterprise Holdings Foundation (thanks to Tracy & Margaret Hopkins)

**Elizabeth Webb Kanta Charitable Trust**

**First Interstate Bank**

Tricia and Don Flynn

George and Helena Fortier

Steve and Adelaide Fredriksen

Fund for Joe's Kids

Jim and Tina Glancey

Nancy Giddens

Tim and Belinda Gordon

Eric and Cindy Guanell

Shane Hanson

Bev and George Harad

**Chris and Ron Hays**

Erica Hill

John Hockberger

Jeanette Hood

**HP**

Initial Point Real Estate

**Julius C. Jeker Foundation**

**Harry W Morrison Foundation**

Idaho Education Technology Association

Idaho Women's Charitable Association

Kissler Family Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Capital City

Kount

**Gladys E. Langroise Advised Fund in the ICF**

Rick and Suzanne Lierz

Lincoln Family Education Foundation

Paula McGuinness

Meridian Kiwanis Club

**Micron Foundation**

**Larry H. Miller Charities**

Alexandra Meier

Miksis Services

Movement Mortgage

Doug and Shirley Osborn

Paradigm of Idaho

Rob and Mary Ann Perez

Sandra Pizarro

**The Regence Fund in the Oregon Community Foundation**

Rockharbor Church

**Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center**

Erica Sarrazolla

**Select Health**

**J.R. Simplot Company**

**St. Luke's Health System**

Kevin and Pam Storms

L. Stanley & Patricia Rooney Sell Charitable Foundation

**Lance and Barb Sullivan**

Sidney and Angela Sullivan

Ann Swindell and Creed Herbold

TDS Fiber

Tek-Hut

Thrive Financial

**Tinstman Family Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation**

**Tomlinson Family Foundation**

Robert I. and Barbara Troxell Fund in the ICF

United Heritage Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation

Voigt Foundation

**Wells Fargo Bank**

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

Richard and Cherol Williams

Aaron Willey and Kelly McConnell

Charles and JoAnne Wilson

Brian Wonderlich and Megan Mooney

And, thank you to those who have requested  
that they remain anonymous.

\*Bolted represents gifts of \$5,000 or more



# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

LIFE BEFORE COVID-19...

## Kuna Club welcomes Kuna Library Friends!

Every Wednesday, (prior to COVID-19) the Kuna Club partnered with the Kuna Library to provide our members access to a wide variety of fun STEM activities designed to keep their minds learning after school. Recently, we've also had an extra special guest named Luis coming to the Club . Luis reads Spanish books with our ESL members or members who are learning Spanish! His infectious energy always draws a large group of members who are excited to listen and learn with him.



## Meridian Club teaches basketball fundamentals!

This past winter, the Meridian Club wrapped up a program called Basketball FUNDamentals! Kids who participated got to learn the basics of basketball including how to dribble, shoot the ball, and more. On the final day of the program, kids played an intense but fun final basketball game! The kids also received certificates in recognition of their hard work and the improvements they made during the program.



## SMART GIRLS at the Moseley Center!

Smart Girls, AKA "Gal Pals" at the Moseley Center, is a national Boys & Girls Club program that focuses on teaching health, fitness, and building self-esteem to 1st-3rd grade girls. Through dynamic sessions, fun activities, field trips, and mentoring opportunities with adult women, our Gal Pal participants get to explore personal and societal attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, and developing positive relationships with peers and adults. Earlier this year, former Club volunteer Genevieve Nutting was our guest mentor. She focused on teaching our young girls Healthy Lifestyles and fitness through yoga and meditation. Genevieve has started her own non-profit called MindsMatter which teaches kids skills to help them manage stress, anxiety, and behavioral-related issues in a safe, supportive space.





# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

## WILD WEST AUCTION UPDATES.

### Wild West Auction Postponed!

The annual Boys & Girls Club Wild West Auction Gala, sponsored by Wells Fargo, typically brings together over 1,000 people who collectively raise over \$800,000 in one night to support the 6,800 children we serve annually. The event is held in April; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the gala has been postponed.



**“The Auction is the single most important fundraising event for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County,” says Executive Director Colleen Braga.**

“This is a very scary time for non-profits who rely on in-person fundraising events for their annual budgets —especially for us, given that the auction provides a major portion of our budget needed to operate our seven locations in Garden City, Meridian, Kuna, and Boise.”

Event and table sponsors make up a major portion of funds for the auction, contributing \$250,000 to the overall goal. “We are very thankful for our event sponsors and table sponsors who have stood by us with all these unexpected changes,” added Braga. More information about the Wild West Auction can be found on our website at [www.adaclubs.org](http://www.adaclubs.org).



Also postponed is the Wild West Online Auction with its \$30,000 fundraising goal. The online event is rescheduled to run from July 15–31st. The online auction is open to the public and does not require tickets to attend. We encourage

you to visit [wildwest.afrogs.org](http://wildwest.afrogs.org) and to share the link with your friends.

### Wild West Auction Event Sponsors

Title Sponsor .....	Wells Fargo
Live Auction Sponsor.....	Lamb Weston
Super Silent & Silent Sponsor.....	First Interstate Bank
Video Sponsor.....	Blue Cross of Idaho
Dinner “Grub” Sponsor.....	Gardner Co.
Dinner “Grub” Sponsor .....	BVA Development
Dinner “Grub” Sponsor .....	St. Luke’s Medical Center
Online Sponsor.....	Western Heating & Air
Hospitality Sponsor.....	W.H. Moore Co.
Sponsor-a-Kid Sponsor.....	Saint Alphonsus
Photo Booth Sponsor.....	ICCU
Photography Sponsor.....	Republic Services
Check-in & Merchant Sponsor.....	Fast Eddy’s
Western Reel Sponsor.....	Charles & JoAnne Wilson
Wall of Wine Sponsor.....	CenterCal, The Village
Watering Hole Sponsor.....	Jackson Food Stores
Old Time Fiddlers.....	CliftonLarsonAllen
Popcorn Sponsor.....	TVR
Raffle Sponsor.....	Heritage Auto Repair
Country Music Sponsor.....	Builders FirstSource
Printing Sponsor.....	Albertsons
Kid Greeter “Howdy” Sponsor.....	Regence BlueShield
Dessert Sponsor.....	Intermountain Gas
Thunder & Lightning Sponsor.....	Idaho Power
Buckaroo Sponsor.....	McDonalds
Wrangler Sponsor.....	Agri Beef
Welcome Drink Sponsor.....	Idaho First Bank
Prize Sponsor.....	Hawley Troxell
Security Sponsor .....	Ada County Sheriff’s Office
Stage Sponsor.....	SelectHealth
Live Item Sponsor 1.....	Tom & Diana Nicholson
Live Item Sponsor 2.....	CBH Homes

**Thank you also to our Table Sponsors who are listed on our website at [adaclubs.org](http://adaclubs.org)**



# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

## HEROES IN OUR COMMUNITY!

### WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

Our hearts are bursting with gratitude and love for our incredible community! Thank you to the community members who answered our call and stepped up to make in-kind donations.

- Long-time Club supporter [Debbie Bennett](#) helped us secure a donation of masks for each of our staff members.
- [Bardenay Restaurant & Distillery](#) and [Technichem Corp](#) generously donated an entire gallon of the hand sanitizer they are now producing. This donation will go a long way in helping us continue to protect the health and safety of our staff and the children and families we are serving.
- Our friends at [Larry H. Miller Honda Boise](#) donated 25 basketballs and a pop-a-shot basketball game to the Moseley Center.



- Our partners at [Power Crunch](#) donated some much-appreciated snacks to our staff and Club members over at the Meridian Club.
- Our neighbors and friends at [Moxie Java Glenwood](#) donated 15 lbs. of ground coffee, providing our staff with the fuel they need to provide all-day services to kids.
- [Flying Pie Pizzeria](#) donated 80 pizzas to Club kids and staff.
- [General Mills](#) and [Fred Meyer](#) have each donated 2000 bags to help with Grab-n-Go meals.
- The staff and kids at the Club have been shown lots of love with donations from [GoGo SqueeZ](#), the [Pancake House](#), [Long Valley Coffee](#), [American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113](#), [Stagecoach](#), [Sweet Valley Cookie Co.](#), [Stein Distributing Co.](#) and [Wildflour Bakery](#).



- Rachelle Klein with [Republic Services](#) dropped off k-cups and creamer at the Meridian Club for staff to stay super-charged.
- With generous donations from [Rolling Tomato](#), [Foothills Chris-](#)



[tian Church](#), [Acme Bakeshop](#), [Sprout Design](#) and [Power Crunch](#), we were able to set up a food pantry in the Moseley Center Lobby.

- Thank you to the [community groups](#) who have dropped off masks to our staff and kids.

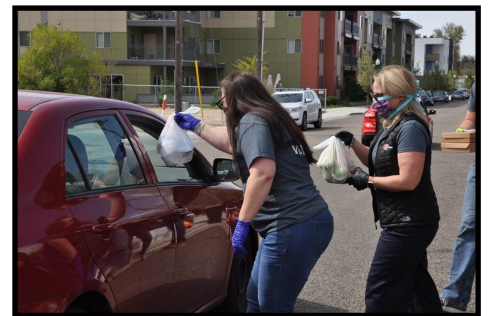
- [Bev & George Harad](#) and the [Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council](#) provided families who stopped by our grab-and-go meal program a surprise of Girl Scout cookies!



- [Boise Fire Fighters –Local 149](#) helped provide scholarships for 100 kids.
- [Domino's Pizza](#) delivered 50 pizzas to our staff which put smiles on faces all around.

- Thank you to [Book It Forward](#) who brought hundreds of books to give away to kids.

- [Susan Robinson](#) has made 33 auction baskets for this July's Wild West Auction. Thank you, Susan!



- [Simplot](#) donated potato products to give to families during the grab and go meal program.

Words can't express how sincerely grateful we are for all the love and support we've received the past two months, including the donation of much-needed funds by many individuals to help keep our operations going. Thank you, everyone, for helping us continue to keep kids safe and fed!

# Whatever It Takes To Build Great Futures.

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

## Did you know that the CARES ACT means more of your donations to Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County are now tax deductible?

There is a new financial incentive for Americans to give generously to qualifying charities, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County. The new universal tax break for charitable donations was included in the final \$2 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package signed into law and will go into effect starting with the 2020 tax year.

The measure grants taxpayers an above-the-line deduction for up to \$300 in charitable donations given in 2020. For example, if you take the standard deduction and give \$300 to charity, you will get a \$300 tax break in addition to the standard deduction.

Visit our website at [www.adaclubs.org/plannedgiving](http://www.adaclubs.org/plannedgiving) for additional information on the CARES ACT for people who itemize, and for corporations.



You can give to the COVID-19 Club Fund at [www.adaclubs.org](http://www.adaclubs.org)



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF ADA COUNTY

610 E 42nd St.  
Garden City, ID 83714  
208-639-3167

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**