

What Do You Know About Monopoly?

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We are in the midst of planning the 17th edition of Monopoly Madness and are laying the stage for the best event ever. Anyone who has attended this event can attest to the fact that it is one of the best fun raising (no – that's not a typo!) events in Victoria but we were wondering how many of you knew some of these facts!

Parker Brothers rejected the MONOPOLY® game when it was first presented to them in 1933, citing 52 fundamental playing flaws.

Over 5,120,000,000 little green houses have been “constructed” since the MONOPOLY® game was introduced in 1935.

World records are maintained for the longest game in a treehouse (286 hours), underground (100 hours), in a bathtub (99 hours) and upside-down (36 hours).

The longest MONOPOLY® game ever played was 1,680 hours long. That is 70 straight days!

Escape maps, compasses and files were inserted into MONOPOLY® game boards smuggled into POW camps inside Germany during World War II. Real money for escapees was slipped into the packs of MONOPOLY® money.

Parker Brothers once sent an armored car with one million dollars of the MONOPOLY® game money to a marathon game in Pittsburgh that had run out of funds.

The three most-landed-on properties are Illinois Avenue, "GO" and the B&O Railroad.

The character locked behind the bars is called Jake the Jailbird. Officer Edgar Mallory sent him to jail.

Here is another important fact - while Monopoly Madness is a whole lot of fun it is also a very successful fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs and their partner, the BC Paraplegic Association. Last year we netted \$125,000 – the best results yet – and these funds were split equally between the two organizations. For Boys & Girls Clubs the money raised at this event has become increasingly important to us in ensuring that we continue to offer the quality after-school and evening programs for kids 5 to 18.

Whether this is your first time as a supporter or you are returning to experience another fun and exciting evening, you are helping ensure the services these two organizations provide continue to be a part of our 'Community Chest'.

So please get on 'board' and sponsor the event, buy a table or tickets or supply

Mr. Monopoly



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Media Moguls



Continued on page 2...



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Proud Supporters of the Boys & Girls Club

an auction item! This year Monopoly Madness will be held at the Crystal Garden and we are really excited about this new venue.

We hope to see you on Saturday, March 7th, 2009! If you are interested in sponsorship, purchasing a table or tickets (\$150) or donating an auction item, please call me at 384.9133 or 478.3872 or email me at kmansell@bgcvc.org.



How City Central Club was rescued... and then the Firefighters turned up!

The City Central Community Club has been able to reopen its doors to kids five days a week thanks to a series of generous donations and a new staff and volunteer team.

You may remember from our last issue that we were delighted to receive some key donations to fund programming at the club two days a week. Imagine our excitement when these donations helped leverage further support from other sources! Sears Canada started the ball rolling with their After-School Enhancement Grants. Their gift was followed by a donation from the Victoria Foundation (Victoria Fund, Willard & Elva Dawson Fund, Anonymous Fund and City of Victoria Governor General's Youth Legacy Fund). The Victoria Foundation, in turn, gave momentum to the campaign by introducing our challenge to Victoria Rotary Club, who donated \$20,000! When Coast Capital Savings also advised us of a grant of \$20,000 over two years we knew we would be able to reach our goal. With some additional funding from Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, ViaTec Hockey Challenge participants, the Victoria Foundation - Harry De Zwager Memorial fund, Kate Mansell and Dr.

and Mrs. Young, we are now able to open five days a week and have a great start on funding for next year. Our next challenge is sourcing



sustainable funding for all the Community Clubs - see page 4 for more details of this.

This success story

reminds us of the power of community investment as well as donor to donor influence. When these organizations spoke to us personally, came to see the facilities themselves, heard what the Club did and could offer, and understood the cavernous need for this type of service in their own community, they pledged generously to bring the Club back to life.

Perhaps a little too late for that rescue operation (but warmly welcomed nonetheless!) members of the Saanich and

Victoria Fire Departments visited new members of the City Central Club to present us with a cheque for funds raised through their charity calendar. Their visit was a treat for Club members, who got to ask the fire fighters questions and even clamber inside and outside the gleaming fire truck. Saanich Firefighter's Charitable Foundation donated \$5,000 from sales of the calendar to the Community Clubs. We are very grateful for this donation, and to be included in the list of charities who will benefit from their 2009 project – another calendar made in partnership with Victoria Fire Department. They also brought with them plenty of copies of the 2009 calendar, which were hot off the press!



Volunteering – by Sarah Hancock

The volunteer program bounded into a brand new year with a fantastic quota of volunteers. Most of these volunteers are helping out as Youth Programmer Assistants at our Community Clubs, with others assisting in administration and special events.

While interviewing volunteer applicants I discovered a recurring theme in why they wanted to join us: an admiration for BGCS and our work in the community combined with a desire to enrich their lives and 'give back' to that community. This positive public profile is certainly a tribute to our staff and the vital, varied programs we run. In addition, the ongoing applications also speak volumes about the talented and generous people in our community.

It is fantastic to start 2009 knowing that our

programs are being supported by these enthusiastic donors of time and energy. I turn to Bill Clinton's quote below to back me up in saying that we really do appreciate the involvement of volunteers in our agency – 'Volunteerism is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.'

Boys & Girls Club Services were part of several events in the fall which helped raise funds and awareness of our programs. At the Gift Winterfest and Family Expo, volunteers helped give kids the gift of bounce through manning an inflatable kindly loaned to us by Pearkes Arena. Other volunteers gave their precious time wrapping others' precious gifts at Sear's Canadian Forces Appreciation event and Futureshop in Langford. We also had

volunteers involved in the TELUS Community Board Fair on November 17th. Thanks to everyone who helped out! There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in special events volunteering during 2009. Contact Sarah Hancock at (250) 384 -9133 for information.

Current volunteer needs:
Monopoly Madness – Saturday 7th March - Event assistants; Millstream club – Girls' night, Boys' night and afterschool care youth programmer assistants; Adventure Based Learning – Program assistant and administration (on call).

Warm greetings to new and returning volunteers in 2009: Atsuko Tanahara, Mark Chudleigh, Jasmine Jassal, Shaun Rosson, Devon McLeay, Carmen Lalonde, Caitlin Ryan, Matt Philips, Timal Kannangara, Maria Carere, Magdalena Benc, Robin Bienvenu, and all our special event volunteers!

Passages - Peter Spillette

In October we lost one of our strongest supporters, Peter Spillette.

Peter joined our Foundation Board in 2003 and co-Chaired the Create a Ripple capital campaign for 18 months. Through his influence he brought his fellow Canadian Tire dealers on board with a \$20,000 donation towards the building of the new Harbourside Club. In addition, we have received close to \$30,000 in Jump Start grants that help children participate in recreational activities. His influence continued with the Metchosin Camp project and to date we have received over \$28,000 from Canadian Tire in support of the camp. In total, we have received over \$92,000 from Canadian Tire. Peter and Jill also made a substantial personal contribution to the campaign. Even after passing he continued to give – donations received in his memory total \$3,930! These

donations were all directed to the Metchosin Camp project.

All of us at Boys & Girls Clubs had a great deal of respect for Peter. He will be greatly missed. In his own words:

'In June 2003, I attended the Boys and Girls Club AGM. A young man spoke about a program at the Boys & Girls Club that saved his life. At twenty years old, he had been able to secure his first full-time job. It did not seem that remarkable until he told us that he had worked as a male prostitute in Vancouver for the previous eight years. At that point, I was convinced this organization had a lot to offer the community. The Metchosin camp is just another step in helping kids get a decent start in life.'



You have it easily in your power to increase the sum total of this world's happiness now. How? By giving a few words of sincere appreciation to someone who is lonely or discouraged. Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a lifetime. - Dale Carnegie

Legacy Gifts by Kate Mansell

In the book, Fundraising for Nonprofit Groups, fundraisers Joyce Young, Ken Wyman, and John Swaigen offer what is probably one of the most direct and easiest to understand definitions of planned giving: "If a person gives you money now that you can spend now, that's not planned giving. If a person gives you a commitment to provide funds in the future, that's planned giving."

I have a different interpretation of planned giving! I believe that virtually everyone 'plans' their gifts. They give careful consideration to their charitable budget, what causes they wish to support and the organizations they feel do the best job of delivering on their mission. If that is not planning I don't know what is!

At Boys & Girls Clubs we know we are doing a great job of delivering on our mission but we too often neglect to tell the community about it. We recently enlisted the help of a family who have been involved in our programs for over eight years to produce a promotional segment for Thrifty Foods' and A Television's Island Together series. When Jonathan began

attending our Millstream Community Club in 2000 I am sure his mother had no idea how long our relationship with Jonathan and now her daughter Maddie would last. Jonathan 'graduated' from after-school programs to being a youth leader, volunteering at summer camp, helping organize and run the boys groups, and participating in our Get B.U.S.Y. program that is run with participants from both the Millstream and Harbourside Clubs (Esquimalt). Maddie, 8, has attended our summer camps for the last two years and she is going to be involved soon with the girls group at Millstream.

Although their message was clear – Boys & Girls Clubs are fun – there was another message just as important. While they are having fun they are also gaining so much more – developing leadership skills and acquiring the habit of service to the community, increasing their fitness through recreational pursuits like swimming, archery and climbing, and discovering the joy of friendship. It was also very clear that the relationships they

were developing with staff and other participants was a very important part of the equation. Shannon, the mother, told us that Jonathan had decided to attend Memorial University in Newfoundland next year. She also said that Jonathan had such a good grounding both from their family life and from his time with Boys & Girls Clubs that she wasn't worried about him being that far from home. She knows that he will handle it responsibly and will get so much more out of university life because of his past experiences.

This is what we do – give kids the experiences, opportunities and skills they need to grow up healthy and able to make positive life choices. And for those kids who haven't benefitted from the kind of family and community life and find themselves in a bit (or sometimes a lot!) of trouble – we are there for them too.

Your 'planned' gift will help us in that work, so please remember Jonathan and Maddie when you plan your next gift!

United Way - Replacing Funding a Challenge by Kate Mansell

Boys & Girls Clubs have been fortunate to receive funding from the United Way for many years. From the days of the Red Feather appeal to the present day, their support has helped us greatly in the delivery of what we consider our preventative programming – afterschool and evening programs for children and youth from 5 to 18 – that operate in our Community Clubs.

This core funding allowed us to deliver quality programs that met the areas of greatest need in the communities we served. It also provided these programs with a stable base of financial support. We were very appreciative of this flexibility and the recognition by the United Way that we were the experts on program service delivery. Of course this flexibility did not expunge the need for accountability and we provided regular reports to the United Way.

We have received our last grant of \$70,000 from the transitional funding arrangement for former members. The United Way does an extraordinary job of raising money in our community and we certainly cannot fault their

focus on homelessness, mental health and addiction, and healthy families and communities. We are, of course, eligible to apply for project funding within the criteria of the United Way's priority areas, however, project funding lasts a maximum of three years. When the grant runs out participants and staff alike face the anxiety of a project drawing to a close as the organization wrestles with the challenge of finding alternative funding to keep the program afloat. This is not an ideal situation for anyone.

At Boys & Girls Clubs we have always recognized the importance of social, educational and recreational programs for children and youth. We cannot state the case strongly enough – programming that is positive, strength-focused, and builds capacity on an individual basis is crucial to healthy child and youth development. Research has clearly proven that investing in preventative programming is far more cost effective than in trying to 'fix' people in remedial programs in later years.

Our preventative programming is really at the core of the philosophy driving Boys & Girls Clubs. Over the years, of course, we have also realized the great need for programs that support youth who may not have had the benefit of 'preventative' programming and who have made bad choices. Although government funding appears relatively secure for these youth who are caught up in the justice system or are at-risk, there is a lack of funding for programs that focus on building the protective, internal assets that young people need to weather adversity and prevent them from engaging in compromising behaviours in the first place.

While those of us working in Boys & Girls Club have no doubt about the positive impact that staff and the programs they deliver have on our participants, an alumni survey conducted by Ipsos-Reid for Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada provides irrefutable evidence of that impact. Some of the findings include:

Two thirds (66%) say the organization continues to have a very positive impact on their life today.

Continued on page 8.

Create a Ripple Receives Wonderful Christmas Gift!

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation has received \$100,000 from Budget Blinds of Victoria and an anonymous donor for its Create a Ripple Campaign. These two contributions will go towards the construction of a kitchen as part of the plans for our Wilderness Camp in Metchosin.

Lorne Campbell, owner of Budget Blinds, delivered the two cheques just before Christmas. 'It is a great honour to be able to contribute to such an essential component of the plans for the Metchosin Camp. As Vice-President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation I know that the existing



kitchen and eating area is not only housed in a very old building – long past its shelf life - it is also very small. From my experience in the grocery business I know how important it is to have a well designed food preparation area. And as a father, I also know how important a role food plays in children's lives.'

'Securing funding for a new kitchen has been a priority for us. With a larger space for the kitchen and dining area our Adventure Based Learning program can reach out to larger groups who may wish to prepare their own food rather than having it brought in. It will also provide them with a central location for sharing meals – the kitchen really is the hub of a camp. So much more than cooking and eating takes place – it really can bring people together,' says Dave Curtis, Create a Ripple Co-Chair.

The announcement of these donations is a significant step in the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria Foundation's

Create a Ripple fundraising campaign benefiting the Wilderness Camp. 'The Camp is an important piece of the Boys & Girls Club commitment to supporting the potential in each and every child. Our programs are developed to bring out the best in kids – so that they believe in themselves and in their own abilities,' added Curtis.



Existing kitchen at camp

News Bits

New donors

The end of 2008 saw people talking worriedly about the anemic economy and many non-profits getting ready for a severe reduction in charitable donations. Fortunately for us, we were offered some early Christmas presents from new and existing donors to keep our spirits high and lead us positively into 2009. At the end of last year we were contacted by the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria, My Chosen Café and many individuals to say they want to help us in some way. Now more than ever is the time to exercise our resiliency muscles, but we cannot do that without the stability of our long-giving donors and the fast response of new donors coming on board.

Country Grocer

Country Grocer is a great example of one of these new donors. Staff expressed a desire that the fundraising they were going to do at the Christmas party be directed to Boys & Girls Clubs, and in particular our summer camp. We were delighted to learn this, especially when their efforts brought in \$720! As costs mount each year it is a struggle to keep our fees down, which is so important to us so that all families can take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that summer camp offer. Being able to direct donations like the Country Grocer fundraising towards summer camp helps us do this and to offer camperships to families who cannot afford

even our reasonable fees. We were also grateful to receive an additional contribution of \$300 from the Esquimalt Country Grocer from their sale of Christmas trees. Way to go Country Grocer!



Rite of Me

We begin 2009 with the comeback of our popular girls' program Rite of Me. This year we will be running two weekly sessions for different age-groups. Both programs, for girls, inspired by girls, encourage the participants to pursue healthy choices and lifestyles and develop an understanding of themselves and their varying situations through alternative experiences in a safe environment. Both aim to integrate young urban-based females to the wilderness and experiential education realm, offering challenging outdoor activities while building confidence and enriching young girls' experiences.

Shoreline After-school Programming

A pilot project at Shoreline Community Middle School was made possible through a partnership between the Town of View Royal, Westshore Parks and Recreation, Shoreline Community School Association and Boys & Girls Clubs. This is a structured afterschool program for Grades 6-8 that includes: sports, homework help, preparing snacks, crafts and field trips to our camp and local recreation centres. Due to the success of this program, we are currently seeking additional funding for afterschool programming on other nights of the week.

Daycare Feasibility Study

Boys & Girls Club Services recently completed a Feasibility Study, funded through a grant from Enterprising Non-Profits, to assess whether to include a daycare facility as part of our services. Primary researchers, Lois Gabitous and Colleen Craig, looked closely at the organizational readiness, the financial viability and the marketability of a daycare either at our Yates Street location or at the Metchosin camp property. The study concluded that a BGCS Daycare was not feasible at this time. However, the research was positive in many ways and will be an invaluable tool if this project is revisited in the future. Our thanks go to Enterprising Non-Profits and the research team for making this interesting study possible.

Youth Volunteering – The Cycle of Giving by Sarah Hancock

There is something both special and encouraging for us seeing current or past participants opting to share their positive experience by volunteering with Boys & Girls Clubs Services. It was particularly powerful to have a Care Home family member and youth volunteering together at a recent event. The 16 year old participant needed volunteer hours to graduate from high school. We were touched that she chose to volunteer her time with us.

Another way youth participants can get involved with volunteering is through the Keystone Club (Youth Leadership program). Two of the five key components of this program are fundraising and volunteering and the group learn about these concepts very practically - through participation!

In fall 2008, Central Saanich Keystone Club put

on a Community Coffee House, with members giving a large chunk of time out of their hectic lives to plan and run the event. Club Coordinator, Lauren Steeg was pleased with the dedication they showed to the project, 'Keystone is about engaging the youth in being more self-directed. This is a process and it takes time, but by the end of the program we hope the youth will have more resources to become positive young citizens.'

When summer rolls around they have an opportunity to apply these resources by volunteering as youth leaders at camp in Metchosin. As youth leaders, they are in a position to encourage younger campers to develop assets that they have gained through involvement with BGCS, such as building positive relationships and developing confidence. Talking to the Central Saanich

Keystone participants, I got a strong impression that their involvement with the club growing up led to a desire to invest time and energy back into the programs. This cycle of giving is a tangible display of one of the Boys & Girls Clubs' core values – Empowerment – the belief that all young people can grow into responsible, contributing and self-reliant members of society. Won't it be wonderful if a few former participants are able to sit on our Board of Directors one day and share their visions for the agency's future? We look forward to seeing old and new faces on the Youth Leaders camp team this August!

Millstream Community Club is keen to begin its own Keystone Club. If you know any youth that may like to get involved, please contact Alison Harding at (250) 478-0721.

We Thank Our Donors

We are very grateful to the following donors who have contributed to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation from 3 October 2008 – 21 January 2009. We have endeavoured to make this list as complete and accurate as possible and apologize for any errors or omissions.

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Continued on page 7

Together We Can Make A Difference !!

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria are grateful to receive funding from a variety of sources which allows us to continue delivering quality programs that address the current needs of youth and their families. If you have not already supported us this year please take a moment to clip this form and send it along with your donation to The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation, 1240 Yates St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N3.

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Note: this form is on our website at

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United Way Funding continued

90% agree strongly that the organization contributes in a meaningful way to the well being of children, is an organization you can trust, has a positive impact on communities, and listens and cares about the needs of children.

Three in ten (29%) alumni strongly agree that Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada really saved their life.

Staff plays a critical role in alumni experiences - over 90% say they would credit a particular staff member for developing, helping and supporting them in developing leadership skills, self-confidence and self-esteem, teaching

values, how to get along with others, knowing right from wrong and for being someone to talk to.

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria faces a real challenge. How do we annually replace the \$70,000 from the United Way to support our Community Clubs? While we have seen an increase in event revenue and donations that support this crucial area of our services, this is a substantial sum which will be hard to raise each and every year.

Donor directed gifts to Boys & Girls Clubs through the United Way campaign have increased in the past few years. Perhaps

this is one way we can recoup some of the lost core funding. Already some of our Board members who are business owners or executives are designating their business contributions to us for which we are extremely grateful. This is one innovative approach.

We invite your comments, suggestions and advice on this challenge – you just may have the answer for us! Contact Kate Mansell at 250.384.9133 or by email at kmansell@bgcvc.org.



Davis Realty Corporation Proudly Supports Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria

As an ongoing corporate program Jack Davis, owner of Davis Realty Corporation, will donate a substantial portion of any commission earned on a real estate transaction conducted through his company. A tax receipt will be issued in your name. All you or anyone you know has to do is state that they wish to have a donation made to the Boys & Girls Club at the conclusion of their real estate transaction.

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