

Boys & Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

About the Boys & Girls Club – Our Boys & Girls Club believes every child has the potential to BE GREAT. In support of this strong conviction, we strive to build caring, responsible citizens. The Boys & Girls Club family – a community of staff, volunteers, parents, youth and supporters – work together to create a positive place, full of hope and opportunity, for every child.

The Boys & Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County serves over 130 kids age 6-18 each day from its two facilities in Waynesboro and Staunton. The Club provides programs and services to help young people develop skills in the five core areas: character and leadership, career and education, health and life skills, sports and fitness, and the arts. To find out more, or to volunteer, go to <http://www.augustabgclub.org> or call 540-949-4516.

The Youth Summit:

The Boys & Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County (BGC) called on Waynesboro community leaders to participate in a “Youth Summit” on April 19th to help focus attention on issues and opportunities facing young people. All six candidates running for three open Waynesboro City Council Seats were invited to participate. All six agreed. Additionally, all candidates running for the unopposed Waynesboro school board seats were invited. Jonathan Hunley, Editor at the News Virginian served as the moderator asking the candidates youth oriented questions.



Issue 1: High Rate of Teen Pregnancy

Background: For every 1,000 females, Waynesboro reported that in 2010 — the year with the most recent health department data — almost 44 females were pregnant. The state average was about 21. The rate in Staunton is about 23, and in Augusta County is about 16. Waynesboro's rate is also higher than it was in 2009, at 39 per 1,000 for 10- to 19-year-olds. The stakes for reducing the rate of teen pregnancies are high. More than two thirds of all teenagers who have a baby will not graduate from high school. Also, teen mothers are much more likely to be in the poverty brackets than others. The problem of teen pregnancy is also expensive. Caring and supporting teen mothers and their children costs the U.S. \$7 billion annually. (Source: The News Leader 4/5/12).

The City of Waynesboro is providing \$15,000 in funding to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Division of the Office on Youth in 2013, flat from 2011 and 2012. The program also receives funds from other sources, with a projected 23.3% increase in overall funding for 2013. The main goal of this program is to promote the postponement of initial sex and to discontinue voluntary sexual intercourse until marriage.

BGC Action Steps: The BGC has a program known as “SMART Girls” which is designed to encourage healthy attitudes and lifestyles that will enable early adolescent girls to develop to their full potential.

BGC Position: Community leaders need to recognize that this problem is real and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the current prevention program to assess if additional resources are needed or if alternative programs should be considered.



Issue 2: Investing in our Youth / Child Poverty

Background: Almost one-third of children in Waynesboro lived in poverty between 2005 and 2009 according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. During the same period, 17 percent of Staunton children and 12 percent of Augusta County children lived in poverty. (Source: News Virginian 12/10/10).

Additionally, for the 2011-2012 school year 49.05% of Waynesboro children qualified for free lunch, and another 7.78% qualified for reduced lunch under the National School Lunch Program. Statewide, the number of children qualifying for free or reduced lunch was 39.78% in 2011-2012, 17% lower than in Waynesboro. (Source: Virginia Department of Education).

The City of Waynesboro is proposing to cut \$10,000 in funding to the Office on Youth, matching a similar cut it made to the program in 2012. The City does fund a Community Action Program (CAPSAW) which allocates funds to various community organizations based on a competitive grant process. For 2013, the City proposes to fund CAPSAW at \$18,700.

BGC Action Steps: Keystone Club - This unique leadership development experience provides opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18. Youth participate, both in and out of the Club, in activities in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Clubs aim to have a positive impact on members, the Club and community.



BGC Position: The City does not typically directly fund various non-profits or community service organizations, but funds such services through the CAPSAW program. The City of Staunton also participates in the CAPSAW program in addition to directly supporting the Boys & Girls Club with \$25,000 (or about \$1,000 per child served at the club daily). The City of Staunton also provides free use of the Booker T. Washington Community Center. Waynesboro City Council should match Staunton's per child funding level to the Boys & Girls Club for the one hundred youth served at the Waynesboro Club daily.

The alternative to investing in our youth today is clear in the 2013 proposed City budget. 2013 funding for Waynesboro's share of operating expense and the per diem usage cost for the Shenandoah Juvenile Detention Center will increase by 32.6%, or an additional \$27,403.

Issue 3: Lower than Average on Time Graduation/ Lower Enrollment into Higher Education

Background: Statewide, the average number of high school graduates enrolling in some form of higher education (4 yr public, 4 yr private, 2 yr degree) is 62%. In Albemarle County, the number is 69%. In Waynesboro, only 45% of graduates enrolled in higher education within 16 months of earning a diploma. (Source: Virginia Department of Education).

The district also has a lower than average on time graduation rate. Statewide, 85.5% percent of students that entered 9th grade in the 2007-2008 school year graduated in four years, compared to 79.7% for Waynesboro.

According to a recent report by the Lumina Foundation titled: "A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education" by 2018, 64 percent of 1.3 million new Virginia jobs will require some form of education after high school. Experts warn that the gap between would-be workers' education levels and the skills required in new job openings could lead to a permanently high unemployment rate.

BGC Action: The BGC has a goal of 100% on time graduation with its members. BGC has implemented the programmatic strategy Every Member, Every Year, designed so that our Club can partner with youth, parents, schools and other community stakeholders to implement approaches for academic enrichment and school engagement; targeted dropout prevention; and intensive intervention and case management. Our aim is to ensure that all Club members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career.

Boys & Girls Clubs has made high school graduation a priority for Club members. To ensure that youth leave the Clubs as well-rounded individuals with a plan for the future, Clubs are focusing efforts on three key outcome areas: Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.

BGC has implemented three strategies to support these outcomes.

- **Every Member, Every Year**, BGC's graduation strategy, aims to ensure all Club members progress on time each year to the next grade level.
- **Live Healthy** helps educate youth about fitness, nutrition and smart decisions.
- **Be Engaged** provides character, leadership and service learning opportunities for Club members.

BGC Position: City leaders must recognize the growing gap that exists between student graduation rates and enrollment in higher education compared to the number of jobs that will require some form of higher education in the future. We must change our mindset from simply training future factory workers and provide our children with the resources they will need to be competitive in the 21st Century.

Issue 4: Schools Failing to Meet AYP

Background: For the past three years, Waynesboro High School and Kate Collins Middle Schools have failed to meet their ratings for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For school year 2011-2012, the district as a whole failed to meet its AYP. Our district scored below state averages in English, mathematics, writing, history, and science. (Source: Virginia Department of Education Report Card)

BGC Position: The recent recession and resulting budget constraints certainly have had an impact of the ability of our school system to deliver a quality education to our youth. That said, we believe that City leaders have placed too much emphasis on issues such as the budget, the school funding formula, and repayment of Kate Collins Middle School debt that we have lost focus on what we are trying to accomplish – ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.



Angel Carter, our local Youth of the Year, outside Mt. Vernon during a recent trip to Washington D.C.

Issue 5: Funding of Public Education

Background: Currently, Waynesboro City Council provides funding to the Waynesboro School Board based on a formula of 42.5% of discretionary funds. This formula actually resulted in an increase in City funding for public education in 2013 of \$375,465 (Source: City Manager's proposed 2013 budget). Despite this increase, Council and the School Board continue to debate publicly over funding issues.

BGC Position: Council and School Board members should consider re-evaluating the funding formula and Kate Collins debt service agreement and work together for the common goal of providing a quality education to all the children of Waynesboro.

On behalf of the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County, we want to thank all our candidates for participating in this forum and for their past and future support!

Board of Directors:

Eric Laurenzo, Past Chair
Tom Hardiman, Chair
Emily Stevens, Vice Chair
Morris Peltz, Secretary
Bruce Allen
Kathy Johnson
Grant Doyle
Phil Figura

Steve Eckstrom
Ed Piper
Shannon Jakeman
Nathan Beck
Scarlet Whitlock
Jorie Carr
Jane Ruby
Tyrell McElroy, Executive Director

Call to Action: How You Can Help Us

By supporting the Boys & Girls Club, you are ensuring that we have the resources to help every child reach his or her full potential. We purposely keep member dues low, less than \$50 per year – so that all young people will have the opportunity to join. You can help create this opportunity – to develop relationships with caring professionals and to experience programs that build character – by making a financial contribution to our Club in 2012.

We know that it takes just one caring adult to make a lasting difference in the life of a child. Concentrating on youths who need us most, our Club provides programs in health, education, career exploration, the arts and sports, fitness and recreation. Most importantly, we specialize in character development. Every day, staff members at the Boys & Girls Club are faced with the task of providing young people with guidance, a sense of belonging and the skills they need to succeed in life.

Become an Every Day Hero by pledging \$1 a day.

- ◇A \$25 donation ensures one more child will participate in our summer camp swimming program.
- ◇A \$60 donation covers the cost to provide service to one child for one week.
- ◇\$500 covers the cost to send a child to our eight week summer camp.

Funds will be used for general operating expenses unless otherwise noted. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Waynesboro, Staunton & Augusta County are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. All contributions will be formally acknowledged. Our IRS tax identification number is 54-1848714.

Individuals: Donations of \$500-\$5,000 qualify for the Neighborhood Assistance state tax credit program. Individuals that give more than \$500 will receive an automatic 40 percent tax credit off their donation from the State of Virginia. Please ask for more details on our Neighborhood Assistance program. **Businesses:** Businesses that give more than \$1,000 will receive an automatic 40% tax credit off their donation from the State of Virginia. Please ask for more details on our Neighborhood Assistance program.

I Want to Make a Difference in My Community:

Financial contribution of \$_____

check enclosed pay by credit card

Name (on card): _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return to: BGC 302 East Main Street Waynesboro Virginia 22980 or
email tmcelroy@augustabgclub.org



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