



PROVIDING **HOPE**  
AND **OPPORTUNITY**  
TO THE **CHILDREN OF CROW CREEK**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THREE DISTRICTS

Newsletter, October 2011

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**Our Staff**

**Ronda Hawk,**  
Executive Director

**Jon Collins**  
Youth Activities  
Assistant

**Heather Big Eagle**  
Unit Director,  
Big Bend

**Shelly Taylor**  
Unit Director,  
Crow Creek

## A positive place for our youth



The Boys & Girls Club of Three Districts provides a positive place where our youth can celebrate their culture and community, enjoy healthy fun with their peers and learn new skills. Under the guidance of responsible adults, each child develops self-confidence. The Club seeks to inspire and enable all young people.

Operating in one of the

poorest counties in the United States, the Boys & Girls Club of Three Districts depends on the support from both within and outside of their community. Please help the Club's effort to provide a positive after school environment for the children of Crow Creek.

The Boys & Girls Club of Three Districts was formed in February of 2002 in Fort Thompson, South Dakota. Our club was developed through a larger initiative by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to form clubs within Indian country that invest in Native American youth. The organization now operates four clubs in each of the three districts

of the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation and primarily serves Native American youth. The Crow Creek Reservation is located in Buffalo County in central South Dakota and is divided into three districts: Fort Thompson, Crow Creek, and Big Bend. The Our club is one of over 200 clubs representing 86 American Indian, Native Hawaiian and Alaskan communities.



# The Sand Art Project



She's proud of her work! She should be.

Last month as Ameri-corps Volunteer Mark Henderson's parents came to visit, Mark's Mom suggested running a project and offered to bring the supplies.



About 30 of the boys and girls participated. They had a ball and stayed with it until the last particle of sand was gone.

It was great to see how creative they were, mixing the colors and picking the color patterns.

And, it was so much for the adults, they will try to come back and do it again.



# New Computers Installed

In mid-July, the **Grace Church** made a special visit to the club. One of the best gifts we received, besides some great workshops and positive influence, was a donation of over 10 new computers across all three units of the club. **Dale Polson**, pictured to the right, facilitated the entire procurement, delivery, and setup of the computers. Then, on a second trip he made sure all the proper anti-virus software was installed and all the computers were properly connected to the internet and to the printers.

to the printers.



*"Special Thanks to Dale Polson and the Grace Church in Iowa!"*

**Tally Monteau, who is a Certified Dakota / Lakota / Nakota Language Teacher in SD.**



# Preserving Our Language

Thanks to the **Dakota Indian Foundation**, the kids have begun a new Lakota / Dakota language program at the Club! Since there are such significant

cultural concepts embedded in the Lakota / Dakota languages, the Crow Creek youth are now able to learn and understand their traditional language. The program provides language instruction and cultural enrichment at the Club. A main focus of

this program is to learn conversation rather than just learn the words. We have a fantastic program leader: **Tally Monteau**. Her passion and knowledge of the language is palpable and the youth members are really enjoying the lessons she provides!

# Field Day

The Thursday before the annual Fort Thompson powwow is Kids Day for Boys & Girls Club members!

This means we had inflatables, a softball tournament, and then later a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.



Check out the pictures to see how much fun the kids had.



*Anyone in Crow Creek will tell you that the Pow Wow and the days leading up to it are the best days of the year.*

# Fort Thompson Pow Wow Parade



# Ronda Hawk, Our Executive Director

**Ronda Hawk** enters her eighth year with the Club. Ronda has 22+ years of continuous experience working with youth, 14 years management experience, and 8 years experience of executive leadership of the BGC of Three Districts. Ronda has successfully completed Executive Leader-

ship Trainings, Federal Trainings, SMART Moves Training, and has successfully managed three U.S. Department of Justice and Office of Juvenile Justice Programs (OUP) grants.

Under her direction, the Boys and Girls Club provides a vital service to the community.



# Thank You Ashworth Baptist Church!



Ashworth has been a great friend to the Club!

The Boys & Girls Club of Three Districts would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all the members of Ashworth Road Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. For years, members of Ashworth Road have supported the Club through service projects, donations, and prayer. With their support, the Club is able to provide all their services to the youth members.

In January, a group of members drove up to Fort Thompson and teamed up with Hunkpati Investments (a local CDFI non-profit) and provided the community members with free tax preparation.

They also drove up with a trailer full of donations that included electronics, card & board games, arts and crafts supplies, and SO much more. A member was

also gracious enough to donate a pool table to the Big Bend Club as the prior pool table was destroyed in the November fire. Their continued commitment to help the Club has been such a blessing to the community and we can not thank them enough.

They are all great friends to the Club and we appreciate each and every member!

*“The construction is proceeding nicely. We’ll be moving in November.”*

## The New Boys & Girls Club Home

We will be moving soon! Our new Fort Thompson facility will offer us up-to-date space with more space. And, because it uses Geothermal heating rather than propane, it will reduce our expenses.

The new building will also house Hunkpati

Investments and offer a room for community events.

After the move, the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center will occupy our current facility.

Because the Boys and Girls Club offers so much to the community, this will be a big event. We will be able to better facilitate the programs listed on the next page.



Benefits the child and the grandparent!

## Become a Foster Grandparent

The Foster Grandparent program will be available on Crow Creek soon and the youth of the Boys and Girls Club will be participating. We look forward to this because of the benefits to all involved.

For more information, contact Mark Henderson at the Boys and Girls Club of the Three Districts.

Phone: 978-328-4466

Email: [ccstyouth@midstatesd.net](mailto:ccstyouth@midstatesd.net)



# Mark Henderson



Mark on vacation in Cape Cod, MA

Mark Henderson is an AmeriCorps VISTA member working for the Boys and Girls Club of the Three Districts. He sought out the assignment after becoming interested in Native American affairs.

In April he began working with the club's director Ronda Hawk securing funding, writing new grants, and working with the youth. Soon after, it became apparent that there were other skills that could be offered such as Web Program-

ming and IT support. As a result the club's website has been redone and the club's computer equipment suffers very little down time.

During the Summer Mark started the Motor Club for the teenagers with motor bikes. The met once a week to work to tune, repair, and ride.

Mark grew up in Hudson Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. He majored in Music and Music Business.

He remains an avid enthusiast in music and has been a member of several groups. During his stay in South Dakota he continues to play the guitar, keyboard, and sing.

Mark currently lives in Pierre.



## Our Programs

These programs provide the youth with critical skills for both academic and personal success:

### Character and Leadership Development:

Empowers youth to support and influence their club and community, participate in the democratic process, and respect all cultural identities.

### Education and Career Development:

Enables youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to optimize employability.

### Health and Life Skills:

Develops young people's capacity to set personal goals and develop the competencies to live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

### The Arts:

Enables the youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of visual and tactile arts and crafts, performing arts, and creative writing.

### Sports, Fitness and Recreation:

Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress managements, appreciation for the environment, and interpersonal skills.



"These programs provide the youth with critical skills for both academic and personal success."



## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

### **Boys and Girls Club of the Three Districts**

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**Fort Thompson**

**South Dakota 57339**

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**E-mail: [ccstyouthcntr@midstatesd.net](mailto:ccstyouthcntr@midstatesd.net)**

**Website: [www.bgcthreedistricts.org](http://www.bgcthreedistricts.org)**

**A Positive Place for Kids.**



# **Please donate**

Donations are our lifeblood. They provide the material for the Boys and Girls Club programs. They provide the meals we serve the youth. Our phone service and heating is paid for by donations. It is the donations, whether through a grant or from individuals, that keep the club running.

We are in a remote area with high poverty. For many of the youth the club is a warm and safe environment where they can learn and be served the meal they need to avoid hunger. Because of our poor economy and that of the areas around us, we have to expand our search for donations. Keeping the club running is a day to day battle and since the club plays such a vital role in the community, we are committed to stay in the fight.

Donations of any size help and can go a long way. We are well accustomed to stretching the dollar.

#### **Donations can be sent to:**

**Boys and Girls Club  
of the Three Districts  
PO Box 518  
Ft. Thompson, SD 57339  
Attn: Ronda Hawk**

#### **To donate on-line:**

**Visit: <http://bgcthreedistricts.org/donate/>**

The Boys & Girls Club of Three Districts does not function without the commitment of generous people like you.

