



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI**

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Summer Fun At The Boys & Girls Club

SEDALIA, MO – August 5, 2010 – As summer comes to an end and the beginning of a new school year lingers right around the corner, members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri have nothing to regret; for them, summer was packed full of new adventures and wonderful times.

Wednesday morning, the teen BrickHouse Theatre TNT DramaMatters members performed “The Adventures of Mouse Deer” at the Parkview Elementary School gym, to an audience full of bright-eyed elementary Club members and proud parents.

The play, which was about the importance of using your wits and trusting yourself, was intended to expose members to the performing arts as well as to provide the teens an opportunity to demonstrate their newly learned skills and abilities on stage.

This summer though, the teen Club members have done more than just learn about being on stage, they have also learned how to be a part of the audience. Over the past few weeks the Club has brought in presenters with multiple backgrounds, job titles and stories.

On July 22, Liz Rehmer, president of the Sedalia Mothers Against Methamphetamine group (MAMa) came to the downtown Club and spoke with the teens about the dangers of Meth and its devastating effects on families. The presentation was held in conjunction with the Clubs

MethSmart curriculum, an education and prevention program, created to inform youth and adults about the risks of meth use. In 2009 the Club dedicated 97 hours of organization-wide curriculum time to educate its staff and members on Meth awareness. The organization receives funding in support of this program from the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

On July 28, representatives from the Pettis County Sheriff's Office, headed up by Detective Sergeant Tollie Rowe, set up a mock crime scene at the Club so the teens could test the sleuthing skills they learned all summer, during the Crime Scene Investigation Module, in a real world scenario.

That same afternoon, Beth Henke from the CitiFinancial bank in Marshall, gave a short presentation about how to budget and save money for both short and long term financial goals. Her presentation was part of the Club's financial education curriculum which is supported by a grant from CitiFoundation. Over the summer the Club's teen members have spent more than eight hours learning to spend, save and manage money wisely. As part of the program, the teens have helped teach the younger elementary Club members age-appropriate money handling skills.

"I had a wonderful experience teaching Boys & Girls Club members about financial responsibility," said Henke. "The kids were attentive, and wanted to know all about this information. I was thrilled to give them the info and introduce them to the idea of budgeting, giving them the tools they'll need for later on in life and can apply today." Henke also stated that kids need direction, and the Boys & Girls Club is a great place for them to get that direction and education.

It is obvious that life at the teen Club has been busy in just the past few weeks; just imagine what it has been like over the past two months.

To cap it all off, the teens celebrated their eventful summer with a membership drive and pool party at Centennial park and pool in Sedalia Wednesday evening. The event began with swimming at 3 p.m., food, fun and games in the park at 5 p.m. and it concluded with a movie at 9:30 p.m.

The Club's summer program will wrap up on August 13 and the Club will be offering drop-in days at its 314 S Washington site in Sedalia, on August 23 through 25. The drop-in program is for youth 6 to 18 years old and it runs from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 per day and members must bring a lunch.

The Club's afterschool program will begin again at the start of the school year at Cole Camp Elementary and High School, Green Ridge Elementary and High School, La Monte Elementary and High School, Leeton Elementary and High School, the Sedalia elementary schools and middle school and Smithton Elementary and High School.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri serves youth from 6 to 18 years of age by providing guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports,

fitness and recreation; and family outreach. The Club currently serves 2,220 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri.

For more information call 660.826.8331, toll-free 877.242.9260, find the Club online at www.bgckids.com, check out the Club's Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627 or follow the Club on Twitter bgckids.

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