



**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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**Boys & Girls Club Seeks Mentors**

*Make a lasting impact*

As part of a Boys & Girls Clubs of America grant initiative in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs and the U.S. Department of Justice, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri is implementing a pilot Mentoring Program at nine of its Club sites in Cole Camp, Green Ridge, La Monte, Leeton, Smithton and Sedalia.

Over the next two weeks the Club will be recruiting mentors from all across west central Missouri to meet with Club members on a weekly basis at the selected Club sites to help members establish goals, discuss accomplishments and provide homework assistance help.

The Club is specifically seeking mentors who, along with parents or guardians, will provide each youth with emotional support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples in a safe and structured environment. Each mentor may serve up to three Club youth at one time for at least two months depending on the number of Club participants.

“We know the difference that a responsible, caring adult can make in a child’s life,” said President Barack Obama during his Presidential Proclamation on December 21, 2010 in which he declared January 2011 National Mentoring Month. “Effective mentoring programs can result in better school attendance, positive student attitudes and a reduced likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use.”

According to mentoring information released by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in partnership with FirstPIC Inc., youth who have mentors experience fewer unexcused absences at school, are less likely to abuse drugs, demonstrate more positive attitudes, display greater confidence in their schoolwork and show improved academic performance.

“We are looking forward to the opportunity that has been placed before us,” said Brett Barth-Fagan, Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri Executive Director. “We know that bringing mentors into our Club programs will have a positive and lasting impact on the youth we serve. We also know that this is going to be an extremely fun and rewarding process for the mentors because they will have the chance to meet the amazing youth we serve and make a difference in their lives.”

According to MENTOR, a national mentoring partnership, “18 million young people, nearly half the population of young people between 10 and 18 years of age, live in situations that put them at risk of not living up to their potential.”

Additional research conducted by MENTOR indicates that 15 million youth that could benefit from a relationship with a quality mentor.

“Many Americans have realized their promise because a mentor encouraged them to reach for new heights and guided them along the path to achievement,” said President Obama. “The contributions of these engaged adults extend beyond the lives they touch and have a lasting impact that strengthens our country and our future.”

For more information about the Boys & Girls Club Mentoring Program call the Club at 660-826-8331 or log onto [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com).

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### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri**

Realizing Potential: Our Children, Our Community, Our Future

Starting in June 2010, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri ([www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com)) began celebrating 50 years of providing hope and opportunity to local communities by inspiring all youth to BE GREAT. The Club started in 1960 when a group of local Optimists and Rotarians saw the need for positive youth programming and 50 years later the Club continues to positively impact lives by helping youth reach their full potential as productive and caring citizens.

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 1,761 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri. For more information call 660.826.8331, find the Club online at [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com), check out the Club's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627) or follow the Club on Twitter at [bgckids](https://twitter.com/bgckids).