

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

What is it about NBGC that makes people think we are UNIQUE? NBGC is one of a kind. Where else can a family exchange a registration form for a lifetime of learning and support for their children? New parents come to the Clubhouse for many different reasons. Some are looking for the physical activities, others a place for their children to come after-school while they are at work. Whatever the reason is for walking in the door the end results are the same. NBGC is their place, a place where everyone belongs. The Clubhouse doors are open and waiting for them. It is constant and comforting. NBGC members know when they come to the Club they can leave all their problems behind. The parents come to rely on the Club as an extension of the family. When the children are young, NBGC relies upon the parents to register their children and get them involved. Once they become a member, NBGC becomes a place they choose to go, not where their parents make them go. Most parents find comfort in hearing that their children are coming to the club for work, a game, a dance or just to hang out. It is a safe place that is their place! A place with people who have known them for years and have watched them grow. A place with people who are close to their age with whom they can talk to, discuss their problems with and ultimately make healthy decisions.

STAFF AND YOUTH LEADERS

The NBGC Full Time Staff are dedicated youth professionals who work year round running social, athletic and afterschool programs for our community youth. Our Program Director, **Bonnie Werstein** has been with NBGC since the early 1980's when NBGC was still a Boys Club. Over the years Bonnie initiated the Girls Sports, Afterschool and Summer Programs. **Amanda Fox**, Clubhouse Afterschool Director grew up in the Chicago Parks and was one of the first female youth leaders for NBGC. When the Clubhouse needed a more structured afterschool program, Amanda was the perfect person for the task. Her years of experience in the afterschool environment and love of youth development was just what we needed. **Andrea Richard**, Coonley Afterschool Director and **Tim Mondl**, NBGC Athletic Director both joined the Staff in September 2009. Andrea grew up in the Bell School area and was an NBC Cheerleader. Andrea remembers many Thanksgiving Day Pep Rallies and Turkey Bowls. Andrea has nine years experience in working with Preschoolers and The Skokie Park District. Tim Mondl comes to NBGC with years of professional youth coaching and therapeutic recreational programming experience. We are extremely excited to be together this summer.

NBGC's ten part time staff are in their last years of high school or attending college. This dedicated group is responsible for recruiting youth for our sports or afterschool programs, monitoring their attendance, handling daily communication and issues that arise with the youth and families. They are also responsible for supervising younger leaders and program volunteers.

By far the most important program that NBGC offers is our Youth Leadership Program. It is what makes us truly unique. The Vision of our founders Mr. Buehler and Mr. Valentin was to create a culture of peer led leadership. The dedicated group of over fifty young people range in age from 13-18 and are responsible for each and every member of the organization. Many of these amazing Teens are ranked at the top of their class academically and serve as class officers or representatives for student government. Most participate on one or more school sports teams or are involved in multiple clubs at school or in their community. The group is responsible for facilitating the day to day operations for the members. The Youth Leader program is a year round program and is open to members 13 years or older. They are trained to guide, mentor and be role models in their community. To become a leader, interested youth must complete an application and then an 8 week training program that includes weekly meetings, job shadowing and direct supervision. Once being accepted into the full leader program the Teens attend weekly meetings to understand how to facilitate the diverse social, educational and athletic programs that are offered. Their focus is on youth development and learning to recognize the needs of each individual without losing sight of the group goals. Each Leader is evaluated on a monthly basis and meets with the Staff to discuss performance. The leaders are paid a monthly stipend based on their performance and can increase or decrease their pay each month just by learning a new technique or giving more effort. The Community recognizes the importance of the NBGC Leadership Program. Local businesses, community groups and individuals support NBGC with over \$30,000.00 in donations for College Scholarships each year. The most rewarding moment and highest compliment that NBGC can receive is when a young member tells their parents that they want to be an NBGC Leader.

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SPORTS PROGRAM

NBGC's core programming has always been our team sports program that offers competition for all levels of play, Kindergarten – 8th grade. In August we offer Boys Football, Girls Soccer, Cheer and Dance. Just as we are completing the Fall Sports in November with the Traditional Thanksgiving Day Turkey Bowl, we begin transitioning to the Basketball Season. Basketball is played through the Winter months and ends in February just as our Floor Hockey and Volleyball seasons are getting started. As the weather starts getting nice NBGC finishes the school year up with Baseball from April until June. The athletic program focuses on teaching and enforcing the fundamentals of the sport and places value sportsmanship, commitment and team play. The Youth Leaders are responsible for keeping things fair and facilitating the duties of officials and scoremarker. Just like the youth learning the concepts of the sports, our Leaders are learning soft skills such as good decision making, conflict resolution, communication, and teamwork. Adults from the community and parents are encouraged to become involved as volunteer coaches but NBGC strives to keep adulthood out of the program and away from the youth. Parents, Coaches and Spectators are asked to always be positive and keep perspective; NBGC's focus is on the development of all youth in the program, not just those playing but the Youth Leaders learning how to lead as well.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club offers many options for youth afterschool. The formal structured programs at the Clubhouse and John C. Coonley Elementary School offer youth a safe place to spend their out of school time. Each day the youth are given a snack and then settle in to complete their homework. Our Staff, Youth Leaders and After School Matters Apprentice Teens are on hand to help tutor and check to see that everything is done correctly. If the youth forget their assignment notebooks and cannot remember if they have homework, they are required to read. If the assignment notebook shows they have a free day, they get to play one of the many activity rooms. Once homework has been completed the supervised youth are grouped by age and move throughout the building and outside participating in a variety of fun activities. Many of the youth are also in the Sports Program and while at NBGC they are escorted to and from their practices and games. Parents and youth love the many options that are offered and the responsibility and respect that the culture at NBGC promotes. In addition to the daily program, NBGC also offers a drop in program for older youth and an open Gameroom for social activities for all ages. School days off and unexpected events can easily be handled with a call or email to our friendly staff and parents struggling to fill the gap in childcare appreciate the flexibility we offer.

SUMMER, WINTER AND SPRING CAMPS

Looking for options to fill the days when schools not in session? NBGC has developed a great program that attracts the parents and youth alike. Parents main concern is the safety of their children. The kids just want to be with friends and have fun! We think at NBGC both groups can enjoy the Camp activities. The Staff and Leaders who have been working with the youth all year long plan field trips, events and theme days that everyone will enjoy. We try to keep small ratios, never more than 10-1 for the oldest youth participating. The youth have access to the gym and outdoor fields for team sports and games. In the Computer Lab they can work on projects, play games or look up fun facts on the computers. Logic and strategy games are equally played beside the traditional board games like Monopoly and Clue. Candle making, tie dying, beading, coloring and other craft projects come alive in the Discovery Room. Four player games on the Wii and Game Cube offer fun social time and everyone loves when the Guitar Hero or DDR come out. The Gameroom and Playground are hot spots filled with laughter during camp. Our goal in the end is simple. NBGC gives the kids a safe place to meet new friends, experience new ideas and tons of choices and a so they come home happy and tired.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Since 1931, NBGC has been providing Leadership and guiding the youth to become Better Men and Women. Our approach gives the youth a sense of achievement, responsibility and commitment to themselves and their peers. This is achieved by the symbiotic relationship that ties our programs together and focuses on the relationships and needs of the youth. Membership is a privilege obtained by respect. Everyone entering NBGC is asked to follow the same rules that start with removing your hat and continue with being responsible for your surroundings, activities and team.

We hope that your family embraces and enjoys the rich tradition of Youth Programming at NBGC for many years to come.