Celebrate the holidays! Even though we all have different home sites, we all really turned things up when they presented us with delicious snowman truffles made by their Cooking Club. It was a cheerful event for all in attendance, especially the bussing miracle came through to save the night. Members pouring rain would have soured the night, but a last-minute challenge accepted...

Did you know? We served nearly 14,000 youth members in the Truckee Meadows, we served more than 300,000 meals in 2016! It costs $20 a year to become a Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows member! The Club provides more than 50,000 bus/shuttle rides transporting kids to the Club in 2016! As you read through this edition of the Club Chronicle, know that your support helps us bring new, exciting and educational opportunities to our kids every day!
**Talkin’ Turkey and Sittin’ with Santa**
By Anne Shadbaker, Family PLUS Director

The 15th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, sponsored by Jenuane Communities, was a great success! With over 1,000 meals served by more than 100 volunteers, community members were able to come and have a turkey dinner all in the family. There were crockpots, full tables and full plates available to anyone in attendance. That evening following the dinner we hosted our Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by One Nevada Credit Union. The Knights of Columbus were here bright and early cooking up a fantastic pancake breakfast. 750 breakfasts were served in between taking pictures with Santa, making gingerbread houses, and spending quality time with family. Both events were well-attended and lots of fun!

**SMART Moves**
By Kalani Vaka, Health & Life Skills Coordinator

On January 6, 15 teen members went through the SMART Leaders experience. The SMART Leaders program was designed to be a tool to help our members avoid four of the most immediate threats to their well-being: alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and teen pregnancy. It is a prevention program that exposes our youth and teens to productive factors that promote positive behaviors, health, well-being and personal success. Our teens went through four sessions covering topics such as Teen Pregnancy, Improving Self Image, Rebalancing Media Pressures, and Assertive in Pressing Decisions. The next step is to have the teens become peer leaders to our youth members and teach SMART Moves to them!

**Bite of Reality**
By Ta’hana Anderson Hall, Leaders in Training Coordinator

During Winter Break, 72 teen members participated in Greater Nevada Credit Union’s “Bite of Reality.” This event simulated what adulthood means with bills and money-related responsibilities. Students were provided a profile through an application on their phone or Club-provided tablets. The profile sheet included a career with a monthly salary, a career for their spouse their monthly salary and a picture of their child. Tables were created for various budget scenarios including child care, clothing and personal care, the credit union, entertainment, groceries and dining, household needs, housing and utilities. Members were asked to visit these tables as part of the budget-balancing simulation.

**Love Your Selfie Leadership**
By Ta’hana Anderson Hall, Leaders in Training Coordinator

This Winter Break, 22 teens participated in the overnight “Love Your Selfie 2.0 Retreat.” After enjoying pizza, songs and lines, the leaders of our Club learned how to lead with positivity through a series of sessions and confidence-building workshops.

Session One was about acknowledging positive attributes. Teens were asked to write positive adjectives about themselves. They then passed their picture on the sheet and placed it in the box around the group so that others could write nice things about them as well. In Session Two, teens learned about their own personality traits via a “color test” and also how to work and communicate with someone who is characterized by a different color personality trait. Different personalities were identified by different colors and our teens were so interested to learn what their own colors meant.

After the confidence workshops, we prepared for our community service project. The LITs pulled together snack bags and sorted out coats for the homeless, learning notes of positivity and hope in each jacket and bag.

Before heading to bed they enjoyed gym time or watched Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, while eating s’mores and drinking hot chocolate. After the move everybody played glow-in-the-dark capture the flag.

The next morning, we passed out water, lunches, jackets and snack bags with positive messages tucked inside the homeless community. Thank you to all the staff who helped make this a successful event as well as Pennington and Teen Health Hall for hosting us.

**SITES and Sounds**

**HelpFrom the North Pole**
By Nicholla Hull, Volunteer Coordinator and Kathleen Vanderzel, Executive Assistant and Donor Relations Director

This year, Santa brought in special reinforcements. Normally during the Christmas season, the North Pole is decked with holy and high school student volunteers who help carry out the annual Holiday Help program. But this year, our members had the opportunity to see Santa wearing dark uniforms for the first time. These helpers were from the Reno Fire Department and the gang unit of the Reno Police Department.

Over ten folks combined from these two departments became a fixture at Ninth Street for the twelve or so days of Christmas. Santa was of course reluctant to let this special force take leave of the workshop when they are much needed to secure the North Pole. However, Mike Wurm and Kathleen VanVeldt were able to pull in an unpaid 1000 from old St. Nick and the special deal was brokered.

Over 230 needy families received assistance in the form of gifts and household supplies. 900 individuals were touched by this event, many expressing they will manage their money better and plan for the future. In addition to financial assistance, the program also donated 1000 meals and over 5000 gifts. In addition to the 12000 meals served at the Club’s annual Holiday Help Party, over 10000 meals were served by more than 100 volunteers, community members were able to come and have a turkey dinner all in the family. There were crockpots, full tables and full plates available to anyone in attendance. That evening following the dinner we hosted our Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by One Nevada Credit Union. The Knights of Columbus were here bright and early cooking up a fantastic pancake breakfast. 750 breakfasts were served in between taking pictures with Santa, making gingerbread houses, and spending quality time with family. Both events were well-attended and lots of fun!

**Run for Fun**
By Kaelin Vaka, Health & Life Skills Coordinator

This chilly December, all members warmed up by participating in the Second Annual Run for Fun event. The Run for Fun is a great opportunity to foster active leisure and participation in running and exercise. It creates an event for all ages participating as part of a national effort to improve our member’s community health. This event is an ideal opportunity for goal setting and practice in making healthy lifestyle changes. The Run for Fun event was open to all community members each exercised for 60 minutes, ate a healthy snack, and learned that running and exercise can be FUN. Our teen members helped set up fitness stations and encouraged the younger members to do their best. Don’t worry, we did not avoid turning the event into fun and Fries!!

**Getting Dirty with Urban Roots**
By Manager, Daniels-Hatcher, Bresson Ave. Clubhouse Coordinator

November 3rd was a beautiful sunny day to plant something. Members from the Bresson Site were able to plant garlic in our patrons under the guidance of instructors from Urban Roots. While our members were excited to plant the garlic; they also got a chance to learn about gardening. Since the remodel of the Bresson Site garden area, members have been eagerly awaiting the chance to plant something. As this activity had a meaningful impact with our members, we plan to continue this awesome program that will prove benefits to our members.

**Little Mr. & Miss Robots**
By Dan Pike, Technology Coordinator

We are wrapping up yet another season of robotics here at the Boys & Girls Club. Our second year FIRST Lego League team, KWIJK Gears, sponsored by FC Darchus, competed in the Northern Nevada Qualifier on December 10. This competitive tested teams and spirit, innovative solutions to real world problems, robot design and strategy, and the robot game challenge. Our team has shown great improvement this year, finishing their season with an honorific mention runner-up for the Judges Award at the event.

Our advanced FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, Codebusters, sponsored by SNC Corporation, kicked off its rookie season by taking first place during the Northern Nevada Tech Challenge in November, providing momentum going forward for the design and preparation of the team for its second competition in Carson City on December 14. Although the team didn’t place as high during the Carson match, we are still qualified to attend the Nevada State competition. We are now busy preparing by planning a fundraiser at the Club in order to raise money to attend the competition and snapping up the rest of the materials we need.

We are now looking forward to the next advancement of our robotics program by including a Jr. FIRST Lego League team. This up-and-coming program for the Boys & Girls Club is in offer robotics training for our younger members ages 6-9. So, be on the lookout for this program for fall 2017. For any information regarding robotics programming at the Boys & Girls Club please contact Dan Pike, Technology Program Coordinator at dpike@bgcmm.org or (775)360-2405. We currently looking for more mentors and volunteers for these programs as well.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS**

**March 25**
27th Annual Jack T. Reviglio Cappino Feed & Auction
**March 27 - April 1**
Boys & Girls Club Week
**March 29**
Boys & Girls Nite Out
**May 2017**
Kickoff to Summer

Contact Nichelle Hull, Volunteer Coordinator at (775) 360-2449 or nhull@bgcmm.org for volunteer opportunities or any of these great events!

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