

# Great Futures Start Here

Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro

Spring 2016

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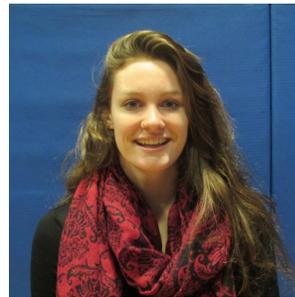
## Youth of the Year 2016

Jordan Baldwin-Page is a true example of an extraordinary young woman. At age 16, she has just been selected to represent the state of Vermont in the northeast regional Youth of the Year competition in New York City this summer. She will compete against other Boys & Girls Club members (from 14 northeast states) for the title of the Northeast Regional Youth of the Year and an additional \$10,000 scholarship. As the Youth of the Year for The Boys & Girls Clubs of Brattleboro, Baldwin-Page is among hundreds of local youth across the country recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community. Being named Youth of the Year

is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

Jordan Baldwin-Page is a junior at Brattleboro Union High School and is looking forward to attending college after graduation. When she gets to college Baldwin-Page is planning on studying journalism and photography and hopes to one day combine both of those with her love of travel.

In a heartfelt ceremony in Montpelier Thursday night attended by family, friends, members of the legislature, and members of the Boys & Girls Clubs from all over the state of Vermont, Baldwin-



Page was not only honored to be named the Vermont Youth of the Year winner, but she also received a \$5,000 scholarship provided by Disney and Toyota, and a \$1,000 scholarship from 99 Restaurants.

"Jordan exemplifies what Youth of the Year means, she is always giving back to the Club and her community. She has overcome so many challenges and done so with poise and grace while focusing on what is important. She is a role model to her peers and younger kids of our community; if more people were like Jordan, this world would be a better place," said Beth Baldwin, chief

professional officer, Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro.

If Baldwin-Page wins at the Northeast Regional competition, she will compete for the title of National Youth of the Year and an additional \$15,000 scholarship. The five regional winners will compete in Washington, D.C., in late September or early October 2016 for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year receives the additional \$15,000 college scholarship and is installed by the President in an Oval Office ceremony.

## Time For Going The Distance

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Going the Distance Ride is on June 25<sup>th</sup>. In 2015, over 70 riders raised more than \$50,000 to benefit the Club's programs for local youth.

Last year, Gene Bailey, Director of Organizational Development at Boys & Girls Club of America, came from NYC and rode 100 miles for our Club. Gene said, "This was the best century ride I've ever

ridden. The tour's idyllic route, enthusiastic volunteer supporters and down-home Vermont hospitality made "Going the Distance 2015" a great ride for a worthy cause. The ride is small enough to get to know some really interesting people yet big enough to positively impact the organization's resources." Gene has already registered for this year's ride and is returning with some of

his friends!

We invite you to join Gene and many others for this year's ride. Choose one of our interconnected loops of 40, 60 or 100 miles that go through the Connecticut Valley of VT and MA. If you don't plan on riding, please support one of our riders. All the information about the ride is on the Club's website, under the Going the Distance tab.



# Summer Camps 2016

Summer is Coming!

This means it is almost time for our 2016 Summer Camps to begin. We are so excited to have 7 full weeks of camp and we look forward to seeing both new and old campers alike. As in past years there will be two different groups each week of camp as well as three weeks of skate camp. Just like past years we have worked really hard to keep our camps fun and affordable to give as many young people as possible a camp experience. Our camps are filled with outdoor adventure, field games, fun with and in the water, arts & crafts and even skateboarding. We design our camps to show all of our campers how great our area of southern Vermont is and how lucky they are to live here.

We have a little extra excitement this year as the club had purchased a new 15 person bus that will allow us to travel further away from The Club. This also means skate camps will be able to get out

of The Club more often and we will be dedicating one day of each skate camp to visiting an outdoor park.

Camps run from the week of June 27th to August 8th. At the end of each day we hope our campers leave tired, dirty, and excited to come back tomorrow, because that is true summer success.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!



## Spring in Bellows Falls

Spring brings new beginnings for Bellows Falls! Warmer weather means more space to roam. Daily homework and healthy snacks remain but with longer sunlight hours comes less hide and seek and more capture the flag! Members new and old can be seen playing baseball down Mill Street, skipping rocks by the river, or racing to cherry hill park for another lively game of structure tag. Teens look forward to joining the Youth Advisory Group where they will plan recruitment events, field trips, and movie nights. Partnerships with local community organizations are in full swing! The Club is planning to start a weekly bike riding group with the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project and is looking forward to co-hosting a kids fair at the Farmers Market! Excitement and empowerment are fueling some awesome positive change for the Bellows Falls unit!

—————If you would like to help support a youth going to The Club Camps, please detach this lower section and return to The Club at 17 Flat Street, Brattleboro Vermont 05301, at your earliest convenience —————

Yes, I/We will support the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro and make a difference in the life of a child.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Mastercard Amex

If you would like to make this a monthly donation check here \_\_\_\_\_

## New Faces at The Club

As winter was ending and spring was starting to show its face, three new faces joined us at The Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro.

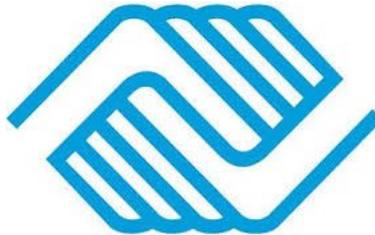
Our new Administrative Coordinator Kate Golding joined us in mid-February. Originally from the Northampton, Mass , Kate comes to us after having spent the last few years in the Albany, New York Area. Kate also spent some time living in Bozeman, MT, but is really glad to be back in the Connecticut River Valley again. Also an artist, look for Kate's work in locally galleries and at the artist co-op ArtRageUs1 on Elliot Street.

Our Bellows Falls Club House has a new staff member Jacob Lawrence. He comes to The Club wanting a change in his typical type of work. Jacob has worked as a machine operator for a number local business. So working with kids everyday is a change and challenge he is really looking forward to. Jacob is also a well know local drummer and is hoping to bring more music to the Bellows Falls

Club House.

Lastly and most recently our Westgate Club House got the addition of Zachary Scott. Zachary is currently taking classes toward finishing his degree and come to The Club with a wealth of experience working with kids in summer camp settings as well in afterschool and summer programs for a low income housing program. With an interest in both photography and the wilderness Zachary brings many skills that will help make the Westgate Club House a fun and active place for our members.

Please stop and say hello to our new staff and help welcome them to The Club.



Kate Golding  
Administrative  
Coordinator



Jacob Lawrence  
Recreation Staff  
Bellows Falls



Zachary Scott  
Recreation Staff  
Westgate

## Keystone: Learning, Giving Back and Helping Out

Keystone is the teen leadership program at The Boys & Girls Club, and this spring like the entire year, Keystone is very busy doing a number of interesting things to help the community inside and outside of The Club as well as learning more about their world.

These events and activities range from things that have become standard that Keystone does every year, like cleaning up during Green-Up Day and participating in the annual AIDS Walk for Life. Keystone is also going on college visits, they will be visiting at least four this spring, Many of the members are also planning on attending the diploma 2 Degrees conference in Manchester, New Hampshire in June. Our Keystone's president and secretary are serving on the steering committee for this

conference.

The Keystone Club will also be doing some fundraising this spring, everything from holding a bake sale at Walker Farm, to doing a car wash, as well as holding an end of the school year elementary sleepover.

The Club can also always count on

Keystone to help with some events also happening this spring, Keystone will help with the summer lunch kick off, be in the Strolling of the Heifers parade and assist with the Going the Distance bike ride.

Keystone is the best of the best, young people who work hard, give back, and make their world a better place.





Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro  
17 Flat Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

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## A Few Words from the Board of Directors

It's spring at the Boys & Girls Club! Club members are bursting with energy, and Club programs are literally blooming with fresh ideas and activities. All year long, the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro offers programs from adventures in science and technology for younger members to career planning for teens. In the spring, we begin to see tangible outcomes, and it is exciting to see these endeavors blossom -- as you can read in this newsletter!

Our Club is a positive, safe environment which kids call "home" for a few hours every day. It provides opportunities for them to

strive and succeed, whether learning to play chess, to juggle or to tackle a climbing wall. At a time when young people need support in the face of enormous social and economic challenges, our Club is on the ground and at the front-lines to help kids combat negative pressures, to take a stand against bullying and discrimination, to avoid the lure of drugs, to develop leadership skills and to evolve into productive, caring citizens for the future.

We thank EVERYONE who contributes to these efforts: the families who share their children

with us, the staff who nurture their talents, the donors, sponsors, volunteers and mentors who give so generously of themselves to make a positive difference in our Club members' lives. We simply could not have the depth and quality of impact on the young people who come through our Club doors without your help!

Please stop by the Club some afternoon to see what "spring" really looks like!

On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
Marcia S. Steckler, President