

Healing & Hope News

"The work will continue..."
- Father Edward J. Flanagan,
Founder of Boys Town

Blue Water Bash, Camp Okoboji's 70th Anniversary Was a Sweet Success!

On July 22nd, more than 300 guests attended this year's Blue Water Bash Fundraiser during Camp Okoboji's 70th Anniversary.



Mary, Katie and Abby Pelan

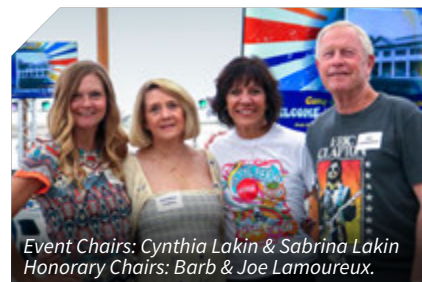
Guests enjoyed a beautiful summer evening with delicious food, live and silent auctions and remarks from Boys Town CEO Rod Kempkes. Family homes offered stories about what makes summers at Okoboji so

special and Boys Town Mayor, Jafar, shared the story of his life-changing journey at Boys Town.

Jafar's compelling story made the Blue Water Bash truly meaningful for all the guests, who later celebrated the evening with dancing and entertainment by Pet Rock.

Boys Town extends a heart-felt thank you to all the gracious donors and sponsors who contributed to this year's event. Your generous support affords our youth and families the opportunity to experience the memory-making joy of a safe and memorable family vacation!

Thank you again to all who joined us at the lake and a special shout out to our Event Chairs, Cynthia Lakin & Sabrina Lakin and Honorary Chairs, Barb & Joe Lamoureux. Thank you for holding a special place in your hearts for this camp and our youth.



Event Chairs: Cynthia Lakin & Sabrina Lakin
Honorary Chairs: Barb & Joe Lamoureux.

A special shout out to those who joined us in 70's inspired outfits and to Pet Rock who kept the dance floor packed!

If you were not able to attend, it isn't too late to support this amazing place. A gift today helps another child experience the true joy of summer fun. Supporters and donors like you help fund camp expenses, including food, supplies, upgrades and equipment. But there are many other ways you can support Boys Town, including sharing your time, talent and treasure. To learn more, please reach out to melissa.steffes@boystown.org



2023 Lifeguards aka The Village People



O'Brien and Jackson Families



New Education Center is Open!

In August, we celebrated the grand opening of our new Education Center. The ribbon cutting ceremony brought together numerous dignitaries, students and staff in celebration of this huge milestone that will offer our youth and staff a state-of-the-art learning experience.

The new Education Center will create:

- » An environment that enables challenged youth an accelerated path to graduation
- » A space where education training services can continue with cutting-edge innovation to bring to schools nationwide
- » A state-of-the-art facility to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty members

“Our new Education Center will help students receive a quality education that will change their lives, the lives of their families and the futures of their communities,” said Rod Kempkes, CEO.



Lindsay Meier, Superintendent of Boys Town Schools, had the opportunity to share with everyone her excitement for the Education Center. “This Education Center reaffirms Boys Town’s commitment to ensuring that all our young people receive fair and equal educational opportunities, where mental, social and emotional well-being are addressed to create a safe and positive learning environment for our kids.”

Some of the key features about the Education Center include:

- » Cutting-edge science laboratories to strengthen curriculum and cultivate students’ curiosity
- » Multilevel media center to enhance and expand engagement
- » Modern-day technology to equip teachers and students with the latest tools that will prepare them for future careers
- » Common spaces to foster community
- » Makerspace where students and teachers can create ongoing, hands-on projects
- » Adaptive classroom environments, both indoor and outdoor, for flexible, small-group learning
- » Dedicated gathering space for prayer, reflection, meditation and contemplation

Boys Town’s Mayor, Jafar, is looking forward to his senior year here. “We are excited for the first day of school this year! All kidding aside, we truly are grateful for this awesome new Education Center. It is a wonderful addition to our campus and will be so beneficial to the current and future students at Boys Town.”

Thank you again to everyone who had a hand in bringing the new Education Center to life. It’s going to have a positive impact on the youth we serve!



Thank You to Bridgepoint Investment Banking



Bridgepoint Investment Banking sponsored Boys Town mayor Jafar and Vice Mayor Abby's participation in the RSM Putting Challenge at the Pinnacle Bank Championship.

The Successful Futures program at Boys Town, which helps our kids plan for college and career readiness, helped Lucas apply for the fellowship and he was selected as the first student for the program.

"Some advice I got that's really stuck with me was, 'Always expect the best from yourself... don't ever sell yourself short,'" Lucas said. "Before, I just wanted to do something in business, but this fellowship is giving me insight into what I really want to do and how to achieve that."

Bridgepoint Investment Banking's motto is "Bringing Wall Street to Main Street" and they certainly did a wonderful job of bringing Wall Street to the Village of Boys Town!



Jafar and Abby with Bridgepoint Investment Bank founders Matt and Natasha Plooster and fellow mentors at Pinnacle Bank Championship



Lucas shown at Men's Warehouse with Bridgepoint Fellowship mentors Andrew Nussbaum, Perry Worden, and Garrett Gamez



Abby, Caddy Garret Gamez and Jafar.

Watch the
Powerful Video
of Lucas Now

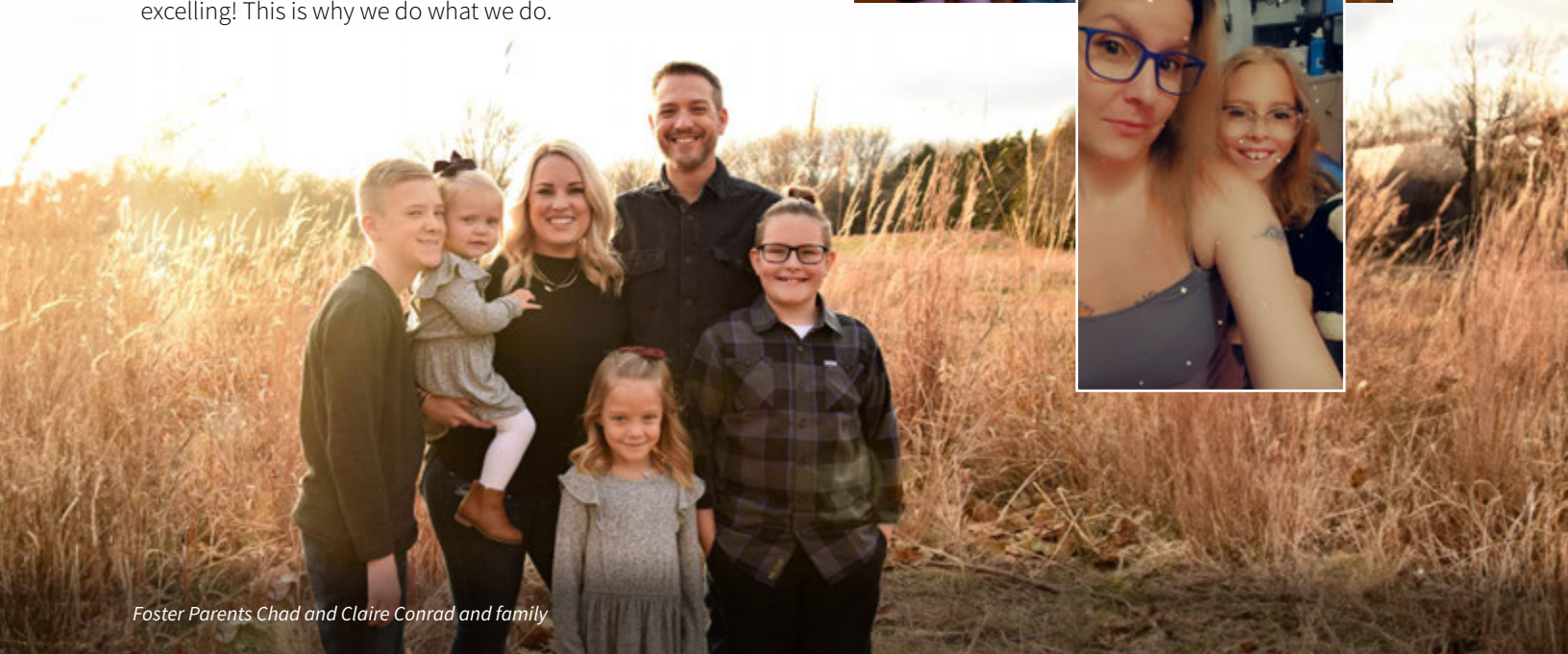


National Reunification Month

DID YOU KNOW JUNE WAS NATIONAL REUNIFICATION MONTH?

In 2022, 63% of our discharged youth in Boys Town Foster Family Services reunified with a family member. Reunification remains our number one priority.

Meet Chad and Claire Conrad and family! As first-time Boys Town foster parents, 10-year-old Riley was their first foster child. The Conrads partnered with Riley's mom Kristen, from day one. They supported each other, provided shared parenting and worked towards the same goal of being amazing parents to Riley. After 16 months, Riley reunified with Kristen. The Conrad family celebrated by going out to eat for the last time as a foster family. Both families remain in contact, live near each other and remain in a connected partnership. Riley and her mom are excelling! This is why we do what we do.



Foster Parents Chad and Claire Conrad and family



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For more great stories, visit

BOYSTOWN.ORG/nebraska

For more than a century, Boys Town has provided help for children, strength for families and hope for communities of high need. From Prevention to Intervention, Boys Town provides a wide range of services dependent on individual needs of more than 150,000 children and families in the region each year. In addition to our campus, Boys Town expanded its programs and services to the community with neighborhood offices in North and South Omaha, as well as additional services in Central and Western Nebraska to include Grand Island, Duncan, Kearney and North Platte.



Like us at facebook.com/BoysTownNebraska



our mission

Changing the way America cares for children and families.