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The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga are finishing a dynamic year of progress, with exciting plans for the future.

“This has certainly been the most fulfilling and interesting year since I arrived in 2012,” noted Executive Director Jay Templeton.

The Clubs have two major projects taking place.

First, the “Great Futures Campaign: Building a Positive Place for Kids” is now into month 17 of a 24-month capital campaign to raise \$9.5 million. The funds will design, build, operate and endow a new Calistoga Boys & Girls Club, replacing the school-based Club currently housed at Calistoga Elementary School (CES).

The Calistoga Club has been operating at CES since 2001, beginning with 50 children in the program. Membership today stands at 432 kids.

“The response for the campaign thus far has been tremendous,” noted Templeton, with \$9.29 million raised and pledged to date. Leadership gifts have come from the Napa Valley Vintners, the Trinchero family, Dario Sattui, the E. Richard Jones Family Foundation and the Delong-Sweet Family Foundation. “People clearly understand the case statement of needing a place of our own, rather than continuing to share space as a welcomed guest in the school. We have simply outgrown the school’s capacity.”



The fundraising campaign continues through June 2016. Four fundraising committees (Leadership, Pacesetter, Major Gifts and La Comunidad) completed their work on September 30th. The final phase of fundraising is the task of the Victory Committee. The Victory Committee launched in late October and is devising a stretch goal to achieve between December and June. “We want to make sure that we have all of our requirements funded,” commented Templeton.



Members of the Victory Committee are Sean Maher (chair), Janice Mondavi, David Butler, Bob Torres, Christy Abreu, Josh Clark and Diane Barrett.

The new Calistoga Club will be built at 1401 North Oak Street, on 1.09 acres of City land between the Community Pool and the Napa County Fairgrounds. The site is in temporary use at this time as a dog park and community garden. Both uses will be relocated.

On a parallel track, project development is well into the design and environmental phases. Pound Management (Leslie Alspach and Matt Rush) are the project managers, and they are overseeing the various due diligence and consulting studies necessary for an environmental determination and building permit. Thus far, the following studies have been completed or are underway: survey, mechanical design, landscape design, hydrologist, arborist, archaeologist, traffic/parking, fire suppression design, technology design, electrical engineer, utilities capacity/locations, materials and color selections, lighting design, kitchen consultant, structural engineer, acoustics and soils engineering.

A preliminary design meeting with the City of Calistoga's Planning Commission took place in October. The Club is also conferring with Napa County (Fairgrounds) and the City for necessary easements regarding access/egress, construction staging and parking, emergency apparatus routes and special event overflow parking.



Gould Evans is the architect of record and Ledcor Construction has been selected as general contractor. The site plan and floor plan are both 90% completed. The Calistoga City Council will finalize the 55-year ground lease, development agreement and joint use agreement in upcoming sessions.

The project's timeline calls for construction mobilization in the spring of 2016 following campaign financing and the issuance of the building permit. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the summer of 2016, with completion and a grand opening for kids and community by Labor Day 2017.

A second Club project is the City of Calistoga's restoration of the Monhoff Center at 1501 Grant Street. Prior to being damaged by weather in 2014, the Monhoff Center housed the City's parks and recreation offices (currently relocated to the Fairgrounds) and the Boys & Girls Club's Calistoga Teen Center. The Teen Center has been operating in a modular annex behind the Monhoff Center since the summer of 2014.



Demolition of the Monhoff's Center's roof took place in early November and the building has been redesigned to better serve the Teen Center and community uses, including both racquetball courts. New construction is slated for the spring of 2016 with anticipated completion later in the year. The Teen Center will return to the restored Monhoff Center, utilizing both floors. Space for a potential new parks and recreation office has been provisioned behind the new Club.

Meanwhile, average daily attendance at the three Club sites continues to increase, with the St. Helena Club hitting an all-time high of 324 kids signed in on October 28th. The Calistoga Club is seeing as many as 190 kids per day, and the Teen Center's summer was the busiest in its nine year history.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) "Gateway to Impact Award," recognizing outstanding development of daily attendance and program quality. The award was presented at the BGCA Pacific Region Conference in October by National President Jim Clark.



The Club's fourth program, the Youth Diversion and Intervention Program, under the direction of Heather Baker, recently graduated the latest D.A.R.E. class in St. Helena. A number of Diversion contracts for first time offenders were also completed.

"Our programs are clearly resonating," remarked Templeton. "Kids vote with their feet, and they come to the Club each day because they develop trusting relationships with staff. They also get the friends, fun and freedom they seek and enjoy. Our staff does a tremendous job in providing a safe and supervised place. We provide important programs-- including academics, sports, social recreation, the arts, technology and nutrition. We stress a moral compass, healthy lifestyles, good citizenship and academic achievement. We maintain a relevancy that both attracts and retains children and teens."

Devoted Board leadership is another key element in the Clubs' success. New officers for 2016 were recently elected. Josh Clark will lead the 19-member Board of Directors as President, Sean Maher will serve as Vice President and Pam Ingalls as Secretary/Treasurer. Kathleen Herdell, Bob Torres and Chris Birdwell fill out the Executive Committee. Rachel Davies will chair the Operations Committee and Kelly Foster will chair the Strategic Development Committee. Bob Torres and Marianna Hawkins will co-chair the Resource Development Committee, and Thomas Brown will chair the Building Committee. Additionally, Christy Abreu chairs the 16-member Emeritus (honorary and advisory) Board.

On the resource development front, "The BIG Night" annual fundraiser in August was the most successful event in its four year history. The coming weeks will see the Club's annual holiday mailer, the ongoing business giving campaign and the third "Calistoga Annual Breakfast for Kids" on March 11th. The firm of Jones-Perry recently completed the annual audit of the Club's \$1.41 million operating budget, investments and capital campaign accounts.



"As Boys & Girls Clubs have emphasized for more than 100 years, our Clubs are community supported. Just 6% of our revenues come from fees. Our Board is committed to being affordable and accessible for all kids and families- especially those who need us most," says Templeton.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga is in a good position right now," noted Templeton. "We serve small communities, but we are delivering the mission to record numbers of kids," which includes a total registered membership at all sites of 1,443. There have been an additional 1,517 non-members who also attended at least one Club event or program during the year and are counted as "other youth served." This number includes numerous Lake County children who were displaced by the disastrous Valley Fire this fall and received Club assistance. Altogether, the Club's "total youth served" figure is 2,960 unique children and teens in 2015, a record count in the organization's 26 year history.

Perhaps "Andre," a St. Helena member best summed up the Club's success: "I like the Club. I get help with homework, do art, play dodge ball and have a snack after school. I'm even learning how to cook with vegetables from the Club's garden. I was here all summer and made friends from different places. I think those are good things."

Templeton simply points to the organization's slogan: "Great Futures Start HERE." That says it all.