



NOTES

Fall
2001



PowerUP Technology Centers— Bridging the Digital Divide

PowerUP/Bridging the Digital Divide is a unique partnership that provides youth access to technology and the guidance to use it. Some of the PowerUP partners include America Online, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, AmeriCorps*VISTA and America's Promise. More than 100 Boys & Girls Clubs will be among the first 250 PowerUP sites. PowerUP will equip each of these new sites with partner donations including Gateway computers, AmeriCorps*VISTA staffing, and America Online accounts.

On February 7, 2001, a PowerUP center was opened at the Boys & Girls Club of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band in Hayward, Wisconsin. They have ten



Club members get some advice from an expert!

Gateway computers hooked up to the Internet via satellite. Each day, Club members use the Center for studying, games, college research, and career development. Access to the Internet allows them to explore different careers, take virtual college tours, and do research for their school projects. The Center also developed a pen pal program with kids in Superior, Wisconsin. Executive Director Brian Jackson

said members have fun e-mailing each other. He said the main thing the PowerUP program offers Club kids is "opportunity."

At the SuAnne Big Crow B&GC in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, VISTA Volunteer Bekka Meyer reports that Gateway computers were installed in November, 2000. The Club began running programs in January, 2001.

Because of their remote location, they also installed a satellite connection. As a PowerUP partner, AOL provides age appropriate screens for kids. Bekka trains volunteers to work with the kids and focuses on relevant topics. They recently researched tornadoes on the Web after some severe weather in their area. Bekka says the focus of Internet training is showing what a good resource it is. "Resource is key," she emphasized.

The kids search Native American websites and other sites so they can appreciate what's going on around

Ten PowerUp Sites are Native American Boys & Girls Clubs

2000 Recipient

- B&GC of the Northern Cheyenne Nation
(Lame Deer, Montana)
- B&GC of Shiprock *(Shiprock, New Mexico)*
- SuAnne Big Crow B&GC *(Pine Ridge, South Dakota)*
- B&GC of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band
(Hayward, Wisconsin)

2001 Recipient

- B&GC of Tomah *(Tomah, Wisconsin)*
- Pojoaque Pueblo B&GC *(Sante Fe, New Mexico)*
- B&GC of Chelsea *(Chelsea, Oklahoma)*
- B&GC of Green Country *(Pryor, Oklahoma)*
- Chickasaw Nation B&GC
(Tishomingo, Oklahoma)
- B&GC of Wilson *(Wilson, Oklahoma)*

PowerUP (continued from page 1)

them. In addition, they learn about popular software programs such as, Basketball Slam Dunk Typing, Encarta Encyclopedias, Microsoft Magic Schoolbus, etc. The PowerUp initiative donated all the software

Here are some websites to check out:

www.the-rez.com
www.turtle-tracks-for-kids.org
www.nativeamculture.about.com
www.nativevillage.org
www.codetalk.fed.us
www.nativelaw.nativeweb.org/newsdigest
www.indiancountry.com

Every child in Pine Ridge who wants to use the computers must make a poster about him/herself using the Internet, graphics programs, and basic keyboard skills to illustrate their "Personality Poster." The posters are hung on the walls of the Center. The kids also use the Internet to explore different professions and imagine what they want to be when they grow up.

AmeriCorps*VISTA and PowerUP Seek Native Americans to Bridge the Digital Divide in Indian Country

AmeriCorps*VISTA is recruiting Native Americans (17 years and older) to serve for one year as computer instructors at the ten B&GC PowerUP sites across the country. "By joining AmeriCorps*VISTA, members will receive the computer training needed to help other Native Americans overcome the digital divide that is threatening their communities," said Matt Dunne, Director of AmeriCorps*VISTA. According to Dunne, Native American VISTA members may continue to receive any Federal or State benefits they received before becoming members. In addition, they receive a living stipend while serving, and an education award of \$4,725 after completing a year of service. For more information visit:

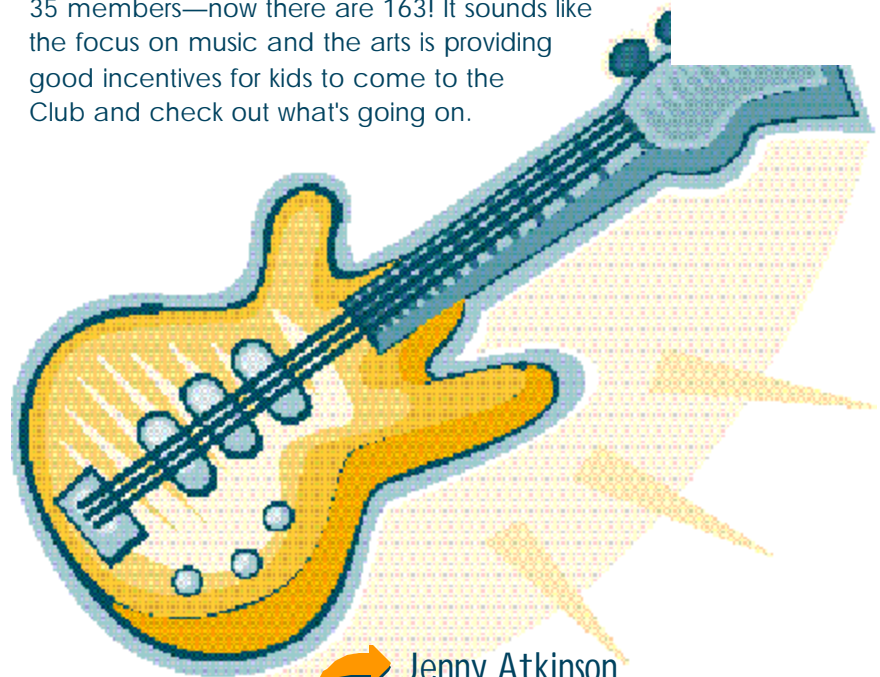
www.americorps.org

The Bonnie Raitt Fender Guitar Program



In 1994, the Fender Guitar Company approached well-known musician Bonnie Raitt about creating a Bonnie Raitt Signature Series Stratocaster guitar. Other Signature Series guitars are named after Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Robert Cray and Buddy Guy—so this would be the first model named after a female artist. Raitt agreed, but on one very important condition. She stipulated that Fender use the royalties from the sale of the guitars to give girls from economically disadvantaged circumstances the kind of opportunity Raitt had as a youth. The Bonnie Raitt Fender Guitar Program was launched in 1996. Participating Boys & Girls Clubs select members to receive lessons. The program is now offered in 181 Clubs nationwide. Ten of those are Native American clubs located in Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

One great example of a Bonnie Raitt Music Program is found at the Pueblo of Pojoaque B&GC in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was started several years ago when Club Director Don Christy, hired a local high school music teacher to teach guitar that summer. They opened it to all Club members to give each member a chance to learn guitar. The Club tries to expose the kids to all the different aspects of the cultures that enrich the Pojoaque Valley. When Don Christy first came to the Club there were only 35 members—now there are 163! It sounds like the focus on music and the arts is providing good incentives for kids to come to the Club and check out what's going on.



For more information on the Bonnie Raitt Fender Guitar Program contact:

Jenny Atkinson
Senior Director, Program Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
1230 W. Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-3447
Tel: 404-487-5765
Fax: 404-487-5789
jatkinson@bgca.org

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!!



Circuit City Funds \$3M National Photography Program for Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs of America, announced a new partnership with national consumer electronics retailer Circuit City Stores. With a \$3 million donation from the Circuit City Foundation, Circuit City will become the official sponsor of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Photography Contest. The funds, distributed over the next 3 years, will also assist Boys & Girls Clubs in the creation of a state-of-the-art photography curriculum to be used in Clubs nationwide. The curriculum will be developed by a Photography Advisory Committee comprised of top photographers from around the country.

"Over the years, our members have astounded us time and again with their talents in many fields including photography," noted Atlanta-based Roxanne Spillett, President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "Circuit City's generosity will make it possible for the Clubs to create their own darkrooms and to maximize the talents of these youngsters..."

"As a nationwide retailer, we saw this partnership as an opportunity to give back to each and every community in which a Circuit City store is located," said W. Alan McCollough, Circuit City's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We hope our partnership will help advance Boys & Girls Clubs of America's goal of encouraging young members into constructive creativity in all aspects of their lives."

The annual contest will include five regional competitions as well as a national competition, with separate categories for digital photography, photo essays and non-traditional, as well as traditional color and black and white. An Internet component will also be created, with photography experts available online to answer chat room questions. Contest winners will receive college scholarships and have their work displayed in a touring international exhibit. Visit www.bgca.org to find out more!

History in the Making! First Native American Grammy Award

When Tom Bee and Douglas Spotted Eagle accepted the Grammy Award for Best Native American Music Album on February 21, 2001, they made history. For the very first time, the Grammys included a Native American category. The winning album was *Gathering of the Nations Pow Wow*, a recording of the 1999 annual Gathering of the Nations Pow Wow in New Mexico, featuring 19 drum groups from various tribes.

Douglas Spotted Eagle said he thought the award would "inspire Native musicians to come out of the woodwork," and the award would, "...inspire a lot of non-Native people to start listening to Native music." Of course there are the Native American Music Awards (Nammys) that debuted on May 24, 1998, but the inclusion of a Native category at the Grammys, shows increased interest in Native music. Major stores such as Tower Records and Barnes and Noble now have "Native American Music" categories. It looks like Native American music has arrived, even off the reservation!

It doesn't hurt to dream big... Club members, keep practicing and maybe someday your music will win a Grammy!



3



Michelle and former President George Bush

Arizona's 2001 Youth of the Year: Michelle Lynn Bates

Arizona's 2001 Youth of the Year, Michelle Lynn Bates, is a member of the Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley in Tempe, Arizona. Michelle has been an active Club member, participating in the Keystone Club, Smart Girls, and SMART Moves, and represented the Tempe Club on the Teen Council. Michelle volunteered to serve on Teen Court, which provided her with an inside view of the legal profession, an area she is interested in. Because of Michelle's active participation in the Club, she was selected to represent Arizona and her Club as the Youth of the Year in the Southwest Regional Youth of the Year competition.

Michelle, like all candidates in the Youth of the Year competition throughout the United States, was judged on her public speaking ability, the content of her speech, and most importantly, what the Boys & Girls Club has meant to her. Michelle proudly states, "Boys & Girls Clubs gave me hope and made me, me. I've changed so much. I look at things with a whole new perspective and I have confidence. I also have a grasp of morals and different values." She added, "My goal in life is to give back to Boys & Girls Clubs because they have given me so much."

Michelle is a true Club kid. She helps others and serves as a mentor for youth. The Club is really like a second home for her. Michelle is now a staff member at the B&GC of East Valley, Arizona. She is a Career and Educational Development Area Leader at the summer day camp where she offers her wise counsel and good example to young kids on the way up.

Michelle overcame setbacks and challenging situations to become the productive, involved teen she is today. She will attend Arizona State University and major in Construction Management. She then wants to go on to get a law degree. She said, "As you can see, I love school!" She is a role model who is definitely going places. *Club Notes* congratulates Michelle on being Arizona's 2001 Youth of the Year!

Stephanie WhiteGrass, Youth of the Year for Montana, 2001

Stephanie WhiteGrass, a member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation in Lame Deer, Montana, has been named the 2001 Youth of the Year for Montana. Stephanie, who is part Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet Indian, has been recognized as a young leader and positive role model in her school and community. In 2000, she was selected as Youth of the Year for her Club and was 1st runner-up for Montana Youth of the Year. Stephanie was nominated again in 2001 and her excellent work and determined spirit led her to win the title this year!

Stephanie overcame some personal family difficulties during which time she concentrated on taking care of her younger siblings, making sure they were doing well. When Stephanie was 14 years old, her friends started to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Fortunately, that's when she met Emma Harris at the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Stephanie recalls an important decision, "I felt like I had to make a choice, I could either go with my friends or go to the Club. I chose the Club and boy, I am glad I did!"

A Club member for 3 years, Stephanie has enjoyed being a program coordinator for 2 ½ years. She proudly explains, "I love working with younger kids because it gives me a chance to help them. I know where they are coming from because I have been there myself. I know how it feels to be alone and helpless." Stephanie's triumphant struggle to overcome obstacles and her concern and care for her younger sisters and brother have helped her learn how to work with kids.

Stephanie just graduated from high school and plans to attend Dull Knife Memorial College in Lame Deer. Her future plans also include going to medical school and becoming a doctor. *Club Notes* congratulates Stephanie on being the 2001 Youth of the Year for Montana!



Stephanie and Executive Director Rick Robinson

First Inuit Language Movie Wins Award at Cannes Film Festival

"Atanarjuat" is the first feature film to be written, produced, directed, and filmed by the Inuit in their own native language, Inuktitut. The film won the prestigious Camera d'Or at this year's Cannes International Film Festival in France. Igloolik Isuma Productions, Canada's first Inuit Independent production company, created the film.

"Atanarjuat," which means fast runner, is based on an ancient Inuit legend. Igloolik elders have kept the legend of Atanarjuat alive for many generations through Inuit story telling, one of the world's oldest living art forms. Sharing the story of Atanarjuat is a way of teaching young Inuit the danger of setting personal desire ahead of the needs of the community. The film's scriptwriter, Paul Apak Angilirq, recorded eight elders telling their own versions of the legend. Then Apak and five writers combined these transcribed versions into a screenplay. Elders commented on every stage of the scriptwriting process for cultural accuracy and use of language. They also explained aspects of the story that might not be as clear to modern audiences.

Igloolik is a community of 1,200 people located on a small island in the north Baffin region of the Canadian Arctic that has archeological evidence of 4,000 years of continued habitation. The movie was filmed entirely on location on the sea ice and frozen tundra around Igloolik. During the six-month shoot, the cast and crew camped in lodgings similar to their ancestors, living on the tundra as they did.

Local artists and elders hand made all costumes, props, and sets for the film. They used sketches and notes from the remembrances of elders. They also studied sketches from the journals of Edward Parry, leader of the British expedition to Igloolik in 1822-23. In those days women wore

elaborate facial tattoos and braided hair. Men made sleds from caribou antlers and sinew. People wore clothing made of caribou, wolf, seal, and even bird skins. Families slept in igloos and stone houses and kept warm using seal oil lamps.

"Atanarjuat" is a universal story of evil, jealousy, and heroism. An evil shaman (medicine man) comes to Igloolik and divides the small nomadic community of Inuit, upsetting their balance and spirit. Twenty years later two brothers are born. However, a vengeful camp leader kills one brother while the other manages to escape by running over the sea ice. He is Atanarjuat, the fast runner. Even though the Inuit community seems remote and far away from the rest of the world, the themes in this ancient story affect people all over the world today. The ancient legend reminds us of the importance of restoring peace and harmony once a dangerous or outside element has invaded our community.

Here are some ideas to help you practice the ancient art of story telling. Maybe one day you, too, can become a film producer!

- + What stories have been passed down to you from the elders in your community?
- + Do the old stories still have meaning today?
- + Which is your favorite story? Which language is it in?
- + Could you make your own video, play, or puppet show about that story?
- + Which kind of costumes and props would you need?
- + Which part of acting would represent your community?

Please share your story with the class and we will print it!

Determination and Commitment Make It Happen at the Boys & Girls Club of Green Country!



Ron Gurley, Executive Director of the B&GC of Green Country, Oklahoma, started the Main Unit of his six clubs in Pryor, Oklahoma on January 4, 1998. Green Country is, as its name

2000 Honor Award for "Best Overall Programming" and the 2000 Native American Service Award at the B&GCA National Conference. The Clubs also boast two state Youth of the Year, Lacy Masterson (2001) and Native American Valarie Caldwell for 2000. Valarie received a \$25,000 college scholarship from Oprah Winfrey!

The programs offered are the Keystone Club, Torch Club, Smart Girls, SMART Moves, and the Bonnie Raitt Fender Guitar Program (see article on page 2), just to name a few. All the activities are based on the five core program areas for B&GCA: Arts, Sports & Fitness, Health & Life Skills, Character and Leadership Development, and Education and Career Development.

Many Club members participate in ClubService in partnership with AmeriCorps, where they provide Club or community service in exchange for financial scholarship awards. The Club has provided 18 members with over \$40,000 in scholarship funds. One ClubService participant, who has several black belts in karate, decided to use his expertise as a way of giving back to the Club. He offers Soo Bahk Bo, a karate self defense class free of charge to members. It is a very popular offering.

B&GC of Green Country was recently chosen as a recipient of a PowerUp Technology program (see article on page 1). The first one is in the Main Unit and Ron Gurley expects the other five centers to be outfitted with 10 computers each and a VISTA volunteer to run the computer centers. He said installation of the first PowerUp center took place this summer.

Ron Gurley has lots of experience working with kids. He worked as a school superintendent and teacher for many years. After he retired, he worked for the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation where he learned about B&GC. He said, "I feel like I spent my life preparing for what I do now. B&GC is a fantastic organization to be associated with." He credits the success of B&GCs with the desire kids have for positive direction from adults. He said a lot of kids don't get that and have a lot of unsupervised time on their hands. He added, "They need a safe place to go. They get positive direction at the Clubs and they keep coming back."

Ron said his favorite B&GC program is the Keystoners because, "I can see teens developing their leadership skills and progress being made." In 1999 the Club's Keystone Club won two of five Regional Awards for Education and Career Development and Leadership and Character Development. All of this is especially gratifying for Ron because he was born in Pryor, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Cherokee Tribe. He returned to the area in 1995 and said, "It's a neat way to help my own community."



Club members give their Club a "thumbs up!"

suggests, a lush area of rivers, hills and creeks located in Northeastern Oklahoma on the 9,000 square miles of the Cherokee Nation. It is not a reservation but a boundary. Green Country borders Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas.

The Main Unit is housed in an old feed store. Ron started the center with five kids, three were his own! B&GC of Green Country is now the largest in the state of Oklahoma, serving 1,000 members. Native Americans make up 72% of the Clubs. The other Green Country centers are in Cherry Tree, Bell, Chouteau, Spavinaw and Roosevelt. Ron began with a budget of \$4,000 and now has one of \$192,000.

B&GC of Green Country has an impressive list of national, regional and local awards. They won the



Club members smile for the camera.

Club Notes congratulates Ron Gurley and his staff for all the good work they are accomplishing on behalf of the youth in Green Country!



Spotlight on B&GC of Cass Lake/Leech Lake, Minnesota



The Boys & Girls Club of Cass Lake/Leech Lake is the first Native American Club in the state of Minnesota, located on the Leech Lake Reservation. Since the Club opened on December 31, 1999, it has enrolled 360 members. Some kids live as far as 40 miles away from the Club. Eighty percent of the members are Native American.

The Club offers programs such as; Power Hour, Street Smart, Torch Club, Woodworking and guitar lessons through the Bonnie Raitt Fender Guitar Program. Started in January, 2001, the Guitar Program is taught by Dale Bladder, who played with

Johnny Cash and on the TV show, Hee Haw! The members also have the chance to learn Ojibwe, their native language. They have social drumming where they drum and sing songs and even have jingle dress making. Jingle dresses are made of empty snuff cans that are rolled into bells and make jingling noises when the girls dance. Boys have the chance to make grass dance outfits. For many of the youth attending, it is an introduction to their own cultural heritage, which they never participated in before.

Lots of contributions have helped the Club develop their successful

programs. Sponsored by the local Lions Club, members respond well to the Power Hour Program, learning many new computer skills. They have the opportunity to earn lots of hours in order to receive prizes such as sneakers donated by Nike and Degemon watches. The Indian Housing Authority contributed \$20,000 to renovate the 1,600 square foot space of the Club, making it a great place to be. They also have ongoing funds from HUD's Drug Elimination Grants so they can focus on gang and violence prevention, homework, education and career development.

Executive Director Bill Oakes has been with the Club from the beginning and says things are going great and that the programs are really helping the kids.

The Power of Language: Navajo Code Talkers

During World War II, the Navajo language became one of our country's most valuable weapons. A World War I veteran named Philip Johnston, a son of missionaries to the Navajos and a fluent speaker of the language, convinced Major General Clayton B. Vogel, Commanding General of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, to use the Navajo language as a code. On Vogel's advice, the Commandant of the Marine Corps recruited 200 Navajos to assist with this amazing effort.

In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp. There they created the Navajo code. Since many military terms do not exist in Navajo, they developed a dictionary and lots of words for military terms. For example, submarine was translated into "besh-lo" (iron fish). Dah-he-tih-hi (hummingbird) meant fighter plane. The mission was a tremendous success and the Navajos received lots of praise. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor said, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working 24 hours a day during the first two days of battle. They sent and received over 800 messages, all without error. From 1942 to 1945 Navajo code talkers served in all six Marine divisions transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their Native language. The Japanese never broke the code!

Here are some other examples of the Navajo code talk!

Vocabulary Word

belong
bull dozer
cemetary
deliver
district
notice
team
thereafter
torpedo

Navajo Word

tses-nah-snez
dola-alth-whosh
jish-cha
be-bih-zihde
be-thin-ya-ni-che
ne-da-tazi-thin
deh-na-as-tso-si
ta-zi-kwa-i-be-ka-di
lo-be-ca

Literal Translation

long bee
bull sleep
among devils
deer liver
deer ice strict
no turkey ice
tea mouse
turkey here after
fish shell

21st Century Update It's Never Too Late!

On July 26, 2001, President George W. Bush presented the Navajo Code Talkers with Congressional Gold Medals in the Capitol Rotunda! The ceremony included four of the five surviving original code talkers and families of the 24 other original members. President Bush proudly proclaimed, "Today we mark a moment of shared history and shared victory."

Why were several Hollywood actors seen at the Washington, DC ceremony? The story of the Navajo Code Talkers has been turned into a movie, "Windtalkers," due out in November.

Can you find and circle all the words listed below?
Be careful—some words are spelled backwards!

WORD SEARCH

Club Notes
PowerUP
Youth
Inuit
Atanarjuat
Guitar
Cherokee
Movie
Email

Penpal
Lame Deer
East Valley
Smart Money
Navajo
Fun
Games
Spirit



And in November...

Attend this training and learn more about positive youth development and successful drug and crime prevention activities!

Club NOTES

Let's hear from YOU!

Send us your artwork, letters, pictures, articles, and any other interesting Club Stuff to:

Club Notes

c/o Boys & Girls Club Initiative
8630 Fenton Street, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3803
e-mail: clubnotes@jbs1.com

