



Letter to the Editor

It all started in 1860, when three women in Hartford, Conn., decided to take in some “street urchins” – undernourished, dirty-faced young boys with little more than ragged clothes on their backs, the hard-luck, forgotten kids of the Industrial Revolution. They didn’t know it then, but these caring ladies were the planting seeds of what would become a true American success story. Their idea took root as Boys’ Clubs, which soon began to sprout throughout New England and eventually across the nation.

By 1906, 53 independent Clubs were operating. The local leaders decided a national federation was needed to further the important mission of reaching out to children in need. They established the Federated Boys’ Clubs, which later became Boys’ Clubs of America.

Fast forward to 2006. Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Fontana, is a network of 3,700 locations around the nation and on U.S. military bases here and abroad. It is a remarkable tale that truly reflects the very story of America through the 20th century. Throughout this year, we will tell that story – the lives changed and saved, the communities turned around, the kids who conquered overwhelming odds to succeed, the caring individuals and supporters who make it all possible.

As Boys & Girls Clubs of America celebrates its centennial year, we pause to thank the many caring people who make our mission a reality:

The thousands of dedicated Club professionals who devote their lives to guiding our young people every day.

The countless, generous individuals – Club board volunteers and donors – who support our work through their selfless commitment of time, talent and treasure.

The caring corporations, foundations and government leaders who actively partner with us to reach unserved communities that need the benefits of a Boys & Girls Club.

And the families and parents who, every day, entrust to us America’s most precious natural resources: our young people.

We can’t wait to begin our second century of providing hope and opportunity, being the positive place for some 4.5 million kids in some 3.700 Clubs, and in doing so, changing lives and changing America.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fontana hopes you will join us in celebrating the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Centennial 2006 – a milestone in which all of America can take pride.

Thank you for making it possible.

Terrie Schneider
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fontana