



## Boys & Girls Club Campaign Update

Doors are opening wider as the Boys & Girls Club of Watertown nears its Opening Doors Capital Campaign goal.

“We are at 82% of our goal,” announced the Club’s executive director, Liz Christianson. “We have had some great gifts and overall support of the community in getting there.

“We’re on track to meet the capital campaign goal of \$3.5 million,” she continued. Additional monies will be raised to help with the costs of the parking lot, furniture, fixtures and equipment. The Club is also making strides with its campaign to grow its endowment fund. The fund will help the Club cover increased operating costs and maintenance of the upgraded space in addition to future programming.

Support from the Watertown Area Community Foundation is an integral piece in both campaigns’ success. The Foundation is awarding its largest grant ever: \$500,000 to the Club. This matching grant is split with \$250,000 matching contributions to the capital campaign and \$250,000 matching contributions to the endowment fund.

“The Foundation and the Club share a long relationship,” said Jan DeBerg, WACF executive director. “Partnering with them for the Club’s future is making that relationship, as well as Watertown’s, that much stronger.”

“We understand that our youth represent our future,” added Laurie Benson, WACF board chair. “Our grant in support of the Boys & Girls Club is an investment in that future.”

While funds are being raised in the Opening Doors campaign, the Club’s door has been used as much as ever. There have been up to 400 children active at the Club this summer, Director Liz Christianson said, adding that’s all the more reason for this campaign to move the Club forward.

The fund raising campaigns are set to wrap up by Aug. 31. Proposed construction/renovation is planned to begin in June/July of 2017 with a completion goal of Fall 2018. Thanks to the Watertown School District, the Club will be able to use the former Garfield Elementary School during the construction/renovation phase.

