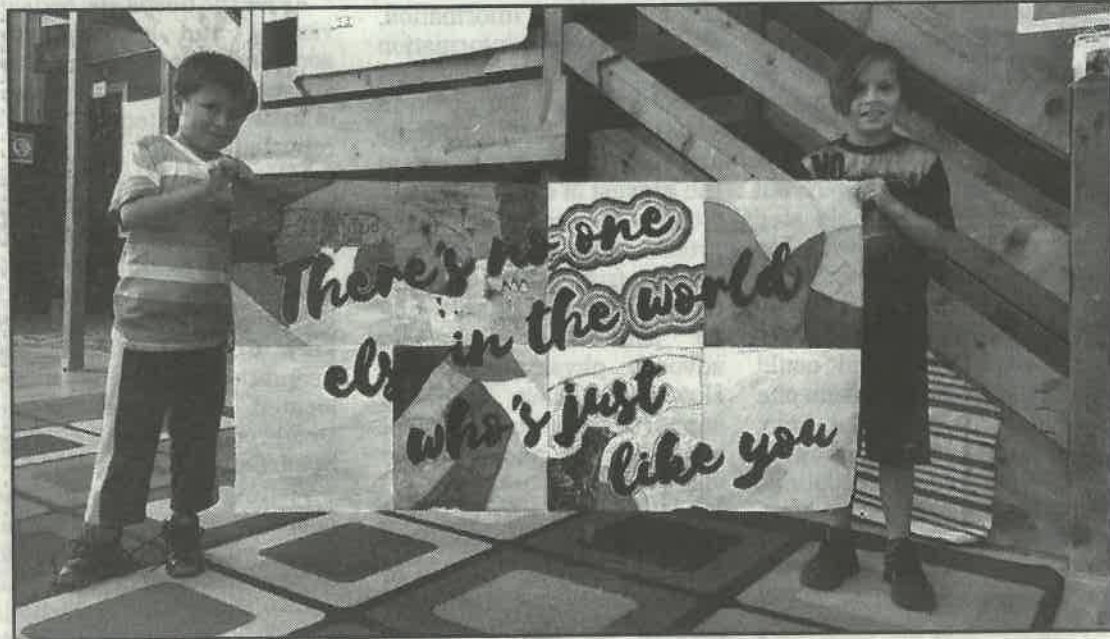


Boys & Girls Club keeps learning alive during Covid-19 Pandemic



By Rich Winter

While the start of the school year is just weeks away, the Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud has been prepping their kids all summer to hit the ground running when the school doors open.

Before the summer education process began, Boys & Girls Club Director Glen Marshall noted the organization did whatever they could during the early stages of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

It was unprecedented and scary time for us as we transition to serving remotely," Marshall said. "The biggest piece early was helping Todd County with food distribution."

During those early weeks the full-time staff continued to work. With the doors to the three centers on the Rosebud Reservation closed the Boys & Girls Clubs did what they could.

"We were sending home academic packets, gardening packets and art packets trying to keep doing the things we would normally do with our doors open," Marshall said.

Treasurer Dr. Nora Antoine, Secretary Lloyd Guy.

"Scott Herman is the new Board Member that has been added," Marshall said.

Despite being locked down for a bit and sending out learning packets to kids, with much gratitude the doors of the B&G Club have opened, sort of.

"We looked at everything and realized we could open at a small level with very modified programming," Marshall said. "At no time can we have more than ten people in the building, temperatures are being taken and we are spacing out while doing a ton of hand washing and hand sanitizing."

While the days of a packed house during the summer months are missed Marshall said the club is focusing on filling in educational gaps potentially missed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are emphasizing math and reading this summer to help kids that may be behind because of the circumstances," Marshall said.

vine they are really into it.

Marshall adds that kids working with their hands is character building.

Just over a week ago the Parmelee Club was able to purchase a new van through fund-raising and a 10-thousand dollar donation from the South Dakota Community Foundation.

Rose Elk Looks Back is the Site Director at Parmelee with Robbie Shot With Two Arrows serving as the Program Director. Dete Geurue is also an integral part of the staff in Parmelee.

Ruth Elk Looks Back is the Site Director in Rosebud.

We asked Marshall to talk about possible plans for expansion.

"We're looking to being serving teenagers more frequently," Marshall said. "We're also looking to expand to other communities like St. Francis or White River with the goal of serving as many kids as we can."

The Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud has recently updated their website. More information about the club can be found at <https://www.rosebudbgc.org/>



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While there won't be trips to the pool in Valentine this summer the kids are doing tons of fun activities like Slip & Slides, Ladder Ball and of course getting a healthy snack every day and continuing to work in the gardens at each location.

One thing that happened this spring and summer that became out-of-the-box learning in uncertain times was the implementation of reading books on-line to students.

Marshall started with the reading of books on-line. After some initial interest and success, Board Members began reading books on-line.

"So we just kinda dreamed that up to promote literacy and then put the call out to Board Members," Marshall said. "Some community members saw the posts, even teachers who volunteered to participate."

While the Boys & Girls has expanded in recent years, now having full-time sites in Rosebud and Parmelee, they've also seen a few changes to their Board of Directors.

One of those changes was the untimely passing of Vernon 'Ike' Schmidt.

"We were super sad at the unexpected passing of Ike," Marshall said. "He was a big part of the success of this program since it was originally founded."

While Board President Dion Reynolds moved to Wisconsin earlier this year he still serves as the President. He commutes back to the Rosebud when necessary and participates on every zoom meeting, a regular occurrence these days for the Board to conduct business.

Other Board members include: Paul Mitchell, Vice President Serena Harmon,

"We're also doing a lot of virtual art and photography stuff on-line the kids would normally be doing on site," Marshall said.

Using a variety of on-line tools, many that are aligned with fluency, Marshall said they often see children go up one/half of a year to a whole year just by participating in the Clubs Programs.

"All of our employees have taught in schools, many as para-professionals, and they bring some really valuable teacher time to the clubs."

If you follow the Boys & Girls Clubs social media presence you will see tons of pictures of the gardens flourishing in Mission and Parmelee. The Rosebud garden is coming back, but was hit hard by hail in early June.

Marshall loves the gardens and calls the production of food as the ultimate education tool.

"Every since my first summer we've been doing gardening with the help of the SDSU extension and the SGU Greenhouse," Marshall said. "We see it as an educational tool...How you do planting is a science and we see a connection to food sovereignty. Kids don't normally like vegetables but when they can pick it off the

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RST Primary Election moved to Aug. 6

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe Election Board has been faced with a very tough decision.

First and foremost, our biggest concern is the health and safety of our tribal members of all ages. We would like to send thoughts and prayers to all who have been affected by the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

Therefore, the RST Election Board, in a duly called special meeting, has moved to postpone the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Primary Election to Thursday, August 6, 2020.

We hope that all tribal members open your hearts and minds to our decision and remember that this is for the health and safety of our tribal nation. Although the Primary Election has been delayed until August 6, we are still on schedule for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe General Election to take place on Thursday, August 27. Thank you for your understanding. Please continue to adhere to the social distancing procedures and please wear a mask. Stay healthy and stay safe.