Memories Are Made At the Boys and Girls Club  
By Kim Deisher-Allen

I have been a proud resident of the Arlington community for over 30 years. I am the mother of four children, an Arlington Public School elementary teacher for 21 years, and a passionate volunteer. Each of these roles has shown me the incredible power of the Arlington Boys and Girls Club. This club has been making memories one day at a time for the past 40 years and will continue to do so with our community support.

Volunteering is something I believe deeply in and I have been involved in many volunteer organizations in Arlington including Relay for Life, school PTSAs, Open Door Theatre, and as a Guardian Ad Litem. One of my favorite organizations to volunteer for has been the Arlington Boys and Girls Club. Before having children of my own, the Boys and Girls Club gave me the opportunity to work with small children as the coach of the Mother Goose soccer and T-ball teams. Later I was thrilled to chair their annual auction, for many years, and raise funds to support the programs that benefit so many students and families of the Arlington area. There are so many opportunities for people to volunteer at the club from coaching, to committee work, to mentoring, and celebrating the youth volunteers. When you volunteer for the Boys and Girls club, you are making a huge difference in the lives of children in our community.

As a teacher, I see the value of students having a positive place to go afterschool while their parents are at work. The Boys and Girls Club’s before and afterschool program gives kids the opportunity to do their homework, interact with other kids, play games, and be safe. Students need something to look forward to each and every day. The Boys and Girls Club provides a positive atmosphere for them to explore and grow.

As a parent, The Boys and Girls Club is the place where all my children have begun their love for sports. They have played soccer, basketball, baseball, and football. This has built a sense of confidence, team work, and pride in my children. We have formed many long-term friendships with the fellow parents we have met from our children’s teams. Our family will continue to be a part of the Boys and Girls Club for many years to come.

As a community member, the Boys and Girls Club is a place where our community comes together. Families, children, grandparents, and relatives come together to spend an afternoon supporting their teams. If you are looking for a fun-filled day, then you need to drop by the Boys and Girls Club on a sports day and enjoy a day of play, as well as see many familiar Arlington faces!
The Boys and Girls Club is a central place for Arlington families, friends, and community to gather. It is not only a “Positive Place For Kids” but a “Positive Place For All.” Each person that enters the Boys and Girls Club has a story or a memory that was made right at the Club. One of my favorite memories from the Club is four years ago when my son and daughter were 3 and 4 years old. I thought they might be ready for Mother Goose soccer. We signed up and went to all the practices, it was very entertaining to watch them all chase the ball in the traditional bumblebee formation. Then came game day! Neither one of my children would go on the field without me, so we all played the entire game with me running and one kid wrapped around each leg. It was a very memorable day and quite a workout. Not to mention, the sideline laughter from supportive and understanding parents. Currently, my son is 7 and still playing soccer – but now he stays in his position, runs the whole time (on his own) and even made four goals at his game last Saturday! It is amazing what a difference a just a few years makes in the life of children. The Boys and Girls club gives them a chance to learn and grow independently and I am grateful for that!

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