"Through the Club I learned the aspects of competition, fair play and how to get along with teammates which has followed me into my adult life”.

Darrell Bussard, Arlington Club Alum.

As a young boy in the mid 1970s’ growing up in Arlington there was not much in the way of youth activities. It was either Asteroids or Pinball at the Bowling Alley or more athletic type activities such as playing basketball and floor hockey in the basement of the original Boys and Girls Club at the north end of Olympic Avenue. Today, it’s better known today as the Mirkwood. My family lived on Dunham Street so the Club was an easy walk for my childhood friends and me. The aspect of the Boys and Girls Club that I personally was drawn to was their basketball and football programs. I played these sports through the Club up until I started playing in the Arlington High School athletic programs in the early 1980’s. Through the Club I learned the aspects of competition, fair play and how to get along with teammates which has followed me into my adult life.

Today, the Arlington Boys and Girls Club not only provides athletic programs to our youth but also provides both before and after school programs that help our youth grow and thrive and prepare them for the world ahead. We also know that kids are home alone more these days since both parents work and have long commutes and need a safe place. I am pleased that after 40 years the Arlington Boys and Girls Club is still there and providing activities for our youth. The Club is in desperate need of expansion to meet the growth rate of our community. When I was growing up the population of Arlington was around 2,000. Today, the Club alone has almost 2,000 members. In life, I believe you have to give in order to receive. Being part of the community leadership group that is raising funds to expand the Arlington Boys and Girls Club is my way of giving back and saying thank you to an organization I received so much from as a young person.