Of Western Lane County

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Our mission is to inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens by providing stimulating and challenging programs through interaction with dedicated, caring people.

Every child matters. They all deserve opportunity. We are here to elevate them and let them know that they are capable, worthy, and important. That's why we make this promise: to prove to the world – and every individual child – that they have what it takes to achieve a great future.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

February 20- President's Day, Office and Club Closed

March 18- Fraudville Lip Syncing Competition (see page 4 for more information!)

March 27-31- Spring Break (Office and Club Closed)

June 3- Fore Kids! Golf Classic

#### **Board of Directors**

President

Pixie Center

**Vice President**Eduardo Osorio

**Treasurer**Jason Hawkins

**Secretary**Donna Cherryholmes

Board Members
Brian Barnard
Lisa Fassler
Laurie Green
Joseph Sassone
Michael Pearson



1501 Airport Rd. Florence, OR 97439 541-902-0304 www.bgcwlc.org

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## **Program Highlights**

## Elementary

Current Enrollment: 196 Club Members

- Our members have had a busy first semester at the Club. They participated in STEM, arts and crafts, social emotional activities, as well as, homework help and structured indoor and outdoor free play.
- We have been focusing on teaching our members about the joy of giving to others. For Thanksgiving, our members went shopping for food to donate to Food Share. For Christmas, we caroled at Spruce Point, Shorewood, and Grocery Outlet and our members "adopted" some seniors from Regency and went shopping to fulfill their Christmas wishlists. Our members also joined Clay Works and made bowls for Empty Bowls.



#### Teen Center

Current Enrollment: 72 Club Members

- The 2022-2023 school year is half over, and our members have had opportunities to enhance the knowledge they are learning at school, build new friendships, learn new skills, and have fun!
- This Club year we are focusing on being positive contributing members of society and are working on giving back to our community. Our members baked cookies and made cards for local veterans to thank them for the sacrifice they made to serve our country. During the month of January our members spent 43 hours involved in service learning. Our members learned new skills while making bowls for Empty Bowls and through providing much needed assistance to the Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity.



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## **Program Highlights**

### **Sports**

- Wrestling
  - Our Fall 2022 Wrestling Season had 91 youth participate. This was our first time offering this sport and it was a huge success. We look forward to the Fall 2023 Season!
  - Vance Kimble took home the title of Oregon State Folkstyle Wrestling Champion. Congratulations Vance!



#### Basketball

- Our Spring 2023 Basketball Season is currently underway with 130 youth participating.
- The 2023 Season wraps up on Friday, February 24th.



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# Let Us Introduce Our Staff! Elementary



Elementary **Site Director** Sam Woosley

Sam has a long history with the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County. She became a Club member at age 7 and played on the basketball, flag football, and soccer teams. When she was 16, she became a volunteer coach for basketball, flag football, and indoor soccer. In 2009 she was hired on as a youth development professional and has spent the last 8 years as the elementary site director and last 2 years as the sports coordinator. Sam is passionate about the Club and the kids' lives she gets to play a part in. Sam loves her community and is a board member on the Siuslaw Baseball Softball Association and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth that live here.

Sam has a 6-year-old daughter, Carter Jo, who is her absolute pride and joy. She loves spending time with her. They enjoy crabbing, fishing, hunting, and baking together. Sam is an animal lover and currently has a house chicken!

Morningstar has been with the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County since September of 2019. Her education and background are in Early Childhood Education, and she has worked professionally with children ages 0 - 5th grade for 23+ years. She has a passion for promoting childhood literacy, getting kids out into nature, and providing hands on experiences that are both fun and educational.

Morningstar and her family moved to Florence in 2018. She and her husband Robert have 2 amazing adult children, Sage and Nick. Morningstar and her husband love to adventure on the weekends and explore the Oregon coast through walks on the beach, trails in the woods, and road trips to surrounding areas. She has recently developed a new love for kayaking where she enjoys peaceful moments and observing nature and animals in their native element.



Elementary **Program Manager** Morningstar Helvey

## Teen Center



Teen Center **Site Director** Jessica Knapp

Jessica has been with the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County since 2018. She attended a Club in California when she was a kid and introduced her kids to the Club here in Florence. Jessica has an extensive history of volunteering with different agencies, being an independent business owner, operating a business with her husband, and helping her children and now grandchildren grow into wonderful people.

She has spent countless years being the class mom, serving on the PTA, and mentoring youth. Her latest adventure in life has been raising a lab puppy that she compares to a rambunctious toddler. When she's not at work Jessica enjoys spending time with her family, going on hikes, watching football, and relaxing.

Naomi also has a lengthy history with the Boys & Girls Club movement. As a kid she attended a Club in Texas (when it was still called the Boys Club) and then many years later worked with the same organization for almost 7 years. Naomi joined the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County in June of 2022.

Naomi holds a BS in Kinesiology and a MS in Therapeutic Recreation and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. She has over 20 years of experience working with organizations that promote diversity & inclusion, healthy youth development, strengthen resiliency skills, and teach wellness tools to youth of various backgrounds. She is a Merit Badge Counselor with the Boy Scouts and has held various certifications as an American Red Cross instructor and Program Manager others for adventure-based activities.



**Teen Center** Naomi Healy, MS, CTRS

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## Administration



CEO Vanessa Buss

Vanessa began coaching as a volunteer with the Club in 2000 and in January of 2022 she came onboard as the CEO. She has enjoyed a wide variety of job experiences and believes that her journey has brought her to final destination with the Club. She previously served as the Quality Program Lead for Peace Harbor Hospital and prior to that she and her husband were the owner/operators of Central Coast Watersports. She is a Rotarian, served on the Board for Habitat of Humanity, and is the Vice President of the Western Lane Fire & EMS Association.

Vanessa is extremely proud to be a resident of Florence and feels blessed to have had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people here, especially the youth, as her passion for children has always been her motivation in supporting the needs of the youth in this community. Vanessa has lived in Florence her whole life and is proud to hold the title of first baby of the New Year in 1971! She and her husband, Stecher, have been married for 21 years and have a daughter Hailey and 2 sons Hayden, and Mason.

Sammi joined the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County in June of 2022. She has a lengthy history of working with nonprofits and other businesses involved in the community. She studied Business Management at Oregon Institute of Technology and got her practical experience at The Running Y Ranch Resort in Klamath Falls where she fell in love with smoking meats and cheeses, (just don't ask her to bake a pie!) When she's not cooking, she's busy writing a fantasy novel and a recipe book, that she'll maybe even get published one day.

Sammi has lived and worked in Florence over 20 years and is happy to call Florence her home. She has 2 daughters and a son who all live nearby, 2 spoiled rescue dogs and a cat that thinks he's a dog. What brings her the most joy is her brilliant and beautiful granddaughter who's 9, a smart and sassy grandson who is 5, the 2 grandchildren on the way, her 5 granddogs and 1 grandcat.



Administrative Assistant Sammi Lewis





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# THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WESTERN LANE COUNTY PRESENTS



Saturday, March 18, 2023 \* 5:30-9:30 p.m.
THREE RIVERS CASINO

Call 541-902-0304

or stop by the Boys & Girls Club at 1501 Airport Road

\$50 ADMISSION FEE INCLUDES APPETIZERS & 1 DRINK COUPON

Come join us for our annual lip-syncing fundraiser! It's going to be a country hoedown with appetizers & drinks, music with DJ Al, games, a photo booth, live & silent auctions, and a MECHANICAL BULL!

We are looking for groups that would like to compete in our lip-syncing contest for bragging rights and a trophy! Do you have what it takes to win or are you more interested in cheering for others? Dust off your boots and get ready for an evening you won't soon forget!

Don't miss out on this fun filled event, the deadline for signing up to participate in the lip-syncing contest is Tuesday, February 21.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, give us a call at 541-902-0304 to learn more!