

Awesome Alum!

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County Alumni Series, featuring Kristi Fred



During your Boys & Girls Club employment, you worked at which Club location?

I worked at the Boys & Girls Club on Orchard Lane. I remember when I was hired, the Club could only offer me part time hours. Within two weeks of starting, I was in love with the job and delighted when the hours opened up for me to be a full-time employee that summer. The following summer I was living in the Seattle area and went in search of another Boys & Girls Club opportunity. I spent that summer at the Club in Federal Way, Washington. I supervised a reading camp in the mornings and then worked with the day camp in the afternoons.

When did you work at the Club? How old were you? Was this a high school or college job?

I worked at the Boys & Girls Club during the summer of 1992 after 4 years of college.

Talk about college, where did you go and what did you study?

I attended Montana State University and earned a degree in Elementary Education. I worked at the Boys & Girls Club the summer after I completed college classes and before student teaching in the fall. Despite the fact that I only worked for the Boys & Girls Club for one summer in Billings and another in Washington state, the experience proved very valuable as I began my teaching career.

What are you up to now?

I am enjoying working as a Special Education paraprofessional at Beartooth Elementary (which happens to be a Clubhouse location this year!) My husband and I were married in '93. We lived for a few years in the Seattle area before moving to Denver. I was an elementary teacher in both cities before we started our family. When our first son was 2 years old, we moved back to Billings and have been here since. I enjoyed staying home with our boys until our youngest went to kindergarten. I then found myself back in the elementary setting but in different roles as a mom. I still love the opportunities that teaching presents as I love being with kids and helping them achieve their best. Our boys are now 20 and 23 and fortunately for us, live in Billings as well. We also have a wonderful daughter-in-law who happens to be a fellow teacher at Beartooth.

If you could give a Club kid of today some advice, what would that be?

I would encourage a Club kid to enjoy the many opportunities that are presented to them and do everything they can to get the most of that opportunity. Work hard to achieve your best, remain true to yourself and show kindness along the way.

What was your favorite memory at the Club?

I loved the people - both staff and Club members - that I worked with. We all had so much fun and enjoyed our time together. I loved the way we could include members in so many of the day-to-day happenings of the Club from preparing snacks to helping plan an activity. We had fun along the way but were able to find so many opportunities to help the members build their self-esteem, learn new skills, form relationships and work to be their best.

Anything else you would like to add about working at the Club?

I love that the Club has grown as the needs of our community have changed. The Boys & Girls Club plays a vital role in the lives of our families. I am proud of the way the Club continues to meet the needs of kids as well as provide a safe place for them.



Thanks Kristi for sharing your story with us!
If you are a Club alumni or know of anyone that is,
we would love to chat!

Please email Missy Lucas at mlucas@bgcyellowstone.org

Photos include: Kristi and her husband, Lance. Her children, son Alex and his wife Anna, and son Karsen and pups Finley and Ocho.