

Two Decades and Beyond! Serving Our Communities Youth



When you are a young man trying to build your career, spending a great deal of time outside your “day” job advocating and supporting others is not usually on the top of someone’s list. However, at the age of 27, Greg McDonald did just that by joining the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County.



The early board years

Greg shared, “I believed in the cause and the need to support underserved children in our community. I felt honored to be asked to be on the Board and serve with so many community leaders, many of whom were my Dad’s peers.” Greg served on the Club Board from 1985 until the end of 1988 when he moved to Denver, CO for work. He returned to Billings from Salt Lake City, UT in 1994 and he rejoined the Club Board in 1999. “I was glad I had the opportunity to rejoin the Board when I moved home. The need for the services the Club provides kids in our

community had increased significantly. I wanted to continue to help these less fortunate kids and families,” explained Greg. The need for more services led the Board to open a 2nd Clubhouse, located in Lockwood. With expansion, comes the need for increased revenue. To support this need, the Endowment Foundation Board responded with the Campaign for Youth endowment campaign. Greg served on the Campaign Cabinet that was instrumental in securing more than the five million dollar campaign goal.

In fact, Greg and his wife Eileen, along with his parents – Sam Jr. and Judy and his sister Debby, have all been long-time supporters of the Boys & Girls Club and our mission to *enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.* In 2009, the family’s commitment to children led to a three year pledge to the *Campaign for Youth*, establishing the Wendy’s of Montana Foundation Endowment and the sponsorship of the most popular day of our annual Summer Program, the Wendy’s Fun Day for Kids. Later renamed Kid’s Fun Day, this highly anticipated celebration includes multiple inflatables, field games, obstacle courses, water games, a barbeque and a visit from the Billings Fire Department who spray the kids with water. In addition to their “family” giving, each of the McDonald’s have established their own personal Foundation to support Club operations, which

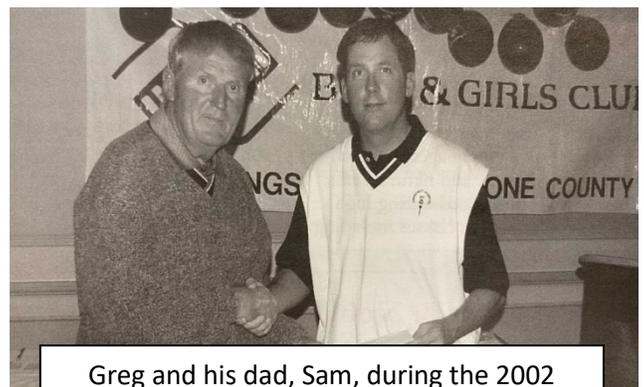
includes the Sam Jr. & Judy McDonald Permanent Endowment, Deborah V. McDonald Permanent Endowment and Gregory & Eileen McDonald Permanent Endowment.

Even though Greg eventually decided to make the natural progression from the Club Board to the Endowment Foundation Board, he was still passionate about the Club's Mission and the kids we serve. Greg is helping the Endowment Board grow the fund through effective management of current assets and engaging new donors to invest and take advantage of tax incentives. With more than 20 years of commitment to *those who need us* most, Greg has been a perfect fit and has a significant impact on the Endowment Foundation's ability to grow and do more for youth and the Club. According to Greg, "I wanted to help with the solid financial outlook of the Club. When the Club needed to grow, the Board responded," said Greg. "We have a tradition of having had strong Boards. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the quality of Club leadership from dedicated folks like Gordon Eldridge, Mike Marnin and Joan Hendricks."

Greg explains he continues his service to the Club and Endowment Foundation and he is proud to "have seen tremendous growth and many accomplishments. However, there is still a huge need in our community, so I continue to serve because I want to assist disadvantaged youth and provide them with opportunities they may not have without the Club." To that end, Greg was instrumental in a recent restructuring of the organization to add a full-time fundraising professional who focuses on engaging donors to grow the Endowment Foundation.

During his time on both the Club and Endowment Foundation Board of Directors, Greg has served in many capacities and has been an active supporter of the *BE GREAT Ball* (Dinner & Auction) as well as the annual *Tee it up for Kids* golf tournament. In fact, according to Greg he believes he has "only missed two or three of the golf events."

"Through the decades, my family has been involved with the Club in one way or another for as long as I can remember," Greg shared. As a matter of fact, Hailey (Greg & Eileen's daughter), the third generation of the McDonald family, engaged with the Club as a Junior Staff and



Greg and his dad, Sam, during the 2002 Tee It Up For Kids Golf Tournament

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worked two summers out of high school. “She really enjoyed her experience at the Club and could see the extreme need in our community,” stated Greg.

There is no question Greg and the McDonald family have made a tremendous impact on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County and the kids who call the Club home.