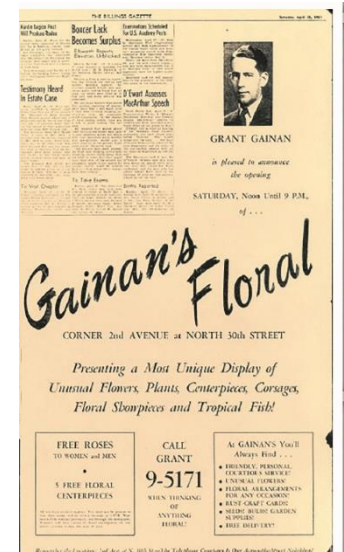


GAINAN FAMILY LEGACY



The Gainan family's journey with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County (formally the Boys Club) started before the Club was even opened. It has been multi-generational, multi-faceted and their involvement truly illustrates the kindness within this family. The Gainan family legacy with the Boys & Girls Club is noteworthy and one that deserves to be highlighted.

Grant Gainan was a community leader, businessman and entrepreneur. Grant had a fearless approach and was a visionary in many ways throughout his life. He served for 10 years on the Fire Department, Engine 1. Grant started the Prevention Bureau in Billings and would conduct local inspections to help avert potentially hazardous situations. In 1951, Grant's entrepreneurial spirit called so he and wife, Betty, took a leap into the flower business. The business steadily increased and quickly became a family affair with Grant, Betty and their three children, Chuck, Kathy and Mick sharing duties around the store- sweeping floors, washing and cleaning flowers and helping with deliveries.



First Advertisement of Gainan's Floral

In 1971, Grant, a respected business man, was recruited by Mayor Frasier to serve on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County (formally Boys Club) Board of Directors. This first class of directors helped establish the organizations infrastructure, secured the Club's first location and recruited Gordon Eldredge, the Club's first Executive Director. It was Grant's visionary approach to business, community respect and enhanced leadership skills that aided the organization in its formative years. It is believed that Grant shared his talents with the Club because he liked the concept of helping kids and families, he was asked to help and he had an enormous amount of respect for Gordon Eldredge.

In 1978, shortly after Grant's passing, Chuck and Mick stepped up to help Betty with the store. Chuck and Mick witnessed first-hand Grant's passion for the Club. Mick says ***“Dad really liked what he saw in Gordon and I am sure he wishes he could have been on this earth longer to help and see the Club grow.”***

It was this example that lead Chuck and Mick to engage with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, both personally and professionally. These two brothers followed in their father's footsteps as kind spirits, business visionaries, community leaders and Club

GAINAN FAMILY LEGACY

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
SERVING OUR YOUTH



Chuck Gainan & Mick Gainan

supporters. Mick and Chuck have both found their passions within the Club program that motivates them to engage and advocate for the organization.

Mick says *“The Club plants seed within kids that will help them in the future; whether in the military, as a house wife, or business leader. The Club helps prepare kids for their own future with a plan to be productive for all.”*

Chuck and his children, Kara and Todd, shared their connection with the Club by naming the “Karolyn Gainan Memorial Art Room” at our Lockwood Clubhouse in memory of their wife and mother. Chuck shares *“Karolyn was an avid artist and gallery owner. Art played such an important part in her life’s expression and created many memories for us as a family. She enjoyed sparking interest in art-lovers and fostering creative spirits. The Karolyn Gainan Memorial Art Room and Gallery 85 Art Wall provides a place for kids to create and shine for years to come.”*

In 2005, the Club enlisted the third generation of the Gainan family. It all started with a phone call to Jim Gainan, from Joan Hendricks, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs Endowment Foundation. Hendricks was finishing a capital campaign and needed Jim’s help to organize a grand opening and community celebration of a new Club program at Castle Rock Middle School. Jim went straight to work and organized the ‘1000 Kid March’ commemorating a great new resource for families in the Heights. The grand opening was Jim’s launching point with the organization, sixteen years and many significant roles later, including Endowment Foundation Board of Director, Interim Development Director and revitalize Chair for the Club’s annual fundraiser.

Jim’s largest task has been to help revitalize and transform the Club’s signature fundraiser, Gordon Eldredge Dinner & Auction into the BE GREAT Ball. Jim worked to energize and grow the Club’s largest fundraising event to ensure it would keep pace with the needs of the organization. In 2010, Jim set to work to create an event that the community could rally to support. Jim hatched the idea to ramp up the dessert presentation during the evening. Jim shares *“we needed to*



Jim Gainan

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come up with an idea, something no other fundraiser in town was doing. I thought the dessert portion of the evening could be unique and if done right, it would create an atmosphere of fun, giving and unforgettable memories.” Jim’s brainchild was a success and has become a signature piece of the BE GREAT Ball each year. Another great collaboration that Jim formulated was “Roses For Kids,” now in its 12th year. During the month of August, for every dozen roses purchased at Gainan’s a portion is gifted to the Club. Through the years, this promotion has raised over \$28,000.00 for the Club.

Jim continues to give to the Club with his talents, skills and meaningful contributions. Jim states *“I get a great deal of satisfaction that the Club is growing and helping kids in the community, especially with needs that many don’t know exists. In fifty more years, I would like to see the Club have a sizable Endowment so it can become a little less reliant on annual asks and be ready to quickly respond to the needs of our local kids. I believe in the Club and its work and know that it helps in ways that we don’t even quantify yet. I am sure participation in the Boys & Girls Club helps ease the stresses and hardships of life that our children face and I am sure it has saved many lives.”*



In closing, Mick shares *“The Club is really amazing and an essential part of Billings. I have interviewed potential employees, who have shared that they have attended the Club. It is astounding how you can tell when people have been cared for and have been given the opportunity to learn by examples, from role models and through their own experience. The Club does that for kids in our community.”* Similar to this thought, we believe the Gainans family is an essential part of Billings and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County. We are grateful

for their instrumental support and involvement. We look forward to collaborating for many more years, with many more generations of the family.