

Baker Youth Club Sign Project



Sherry Miner – Owens/Kroger Matt Tague – Kosciusko Community Hospital Nathan Conley – Lake City Bank

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Introduction

Baker Youth Club (BYC) is an after school program serving the youth of Kosciusko County. BYC provides a safe, fun place for children to study, engage in physical fitness activities, arts, crafts and socialization in a new state-of-the-art facility. They also provide free homework help, after school snacks, and dinners.

BYC's organization mission statement is "To work with the youth of Kosciusko County to shape a healthy, educated, physical and social identity based on Christian values." As a local youth development agency, BYC's emphasis on education, health, physical fitness and social skills not only helps children now, but provides lessons in discipline, respect, relationship building, and other essential components that will help the children they serve be successful in life.

History of BYC

The history of BYC begins with a banker from Boston, Bramwell Baker, a member of the local Rotary Club who spent his summers in Winona Lake. He wanted to provide structured and disciplined activities for delinquent boys in the community similar to a program they had on the east coast. In 1926, he encouraged the City of Warsaw to match his \$1,000 donation to begin a club for boys. He pitched his idea to the Kiwanis Friday lunch meeting group with a promise to continue to support the club through an additional pledge of \$1,000 per year. A local schoolteacher and coach, Pete Thorn, served as the first club director when it opened in 1926. Mr. Thorn served as the club's director for 37 years through 1963. This first club met on the second story of the former Sharp's Hardware building located on the south side of the courthouse square. This building sold in 1971 to First National Bank who razed it to construct a parking lot.

After Mr. Thorn's tenure as director of the club, Robert Lichtenwalter, or "Coach" as he's so affectionately known in the community, became the club's second director. He served in this role for 29 years through 1992 and can still be seen around the club as a staff member. Coach has been a member, director, or staff person for 70 years.

The club's third director was Scott Wiley. During his time as director, he expanded BYC's services by creating BYC locations throughout the county. BYC added locations in Leesburg, North Webster, Pierceton, Silver Lake and Claypool. Also during this time Baker Youth Club began accepting girls into this one-time, boys only club.

Up until 2003, all of the BYC directors had been part-time. In 2003, the club made a big step towards insuring its lasting impact on the community by hiring its first full-time director Tracy Furnivall.

Even with the club's long-standing history and substantial role in the community, it never had a facility to call its own. In January 2004, the club's board of directors made the decision to construct a new facility and in 2006, with the help of the state, board, and community of Kosciusko County, they broke ground on their \$2 million facility which was completed in 2007 and is debt-free. The new facility named the "Lichtenwalter Center" after Robert "Coach" Lichtenwalter serves as the permanent home for the club which now serves more than 80 kids per night.

The Decision

When deciding on a white paper project our group wanted to work on something tangible that would have a near immediate measurable benefit. Tracy Furnival, Executive Director of BYC made an announcement about the need for a new sign for BYC. The club had a beautiful new facility constructed in 2007 with a large game room, full court gymnasium, kitchen facilities, and several other multi-purpose rooms. The main sign of the club was constructed of wood and after weathering several northern Indiana winters has become faded. The corners of the frame are beginning to come apart, and wood rot is beginning. The club's board of directors wanted to construct a new sign that would blend better with the club's architectural design and local residential neighborhood as well as provide announcements to club members and the public.

When our group was thinking of possible projects, we remembered Tracy's proposal to help with their new sign project. We decided it was a project we could get excited about and also one that would provide value for the community and children served by BYC.

The Project

The project involves three main components. The first is designing the sign, which includes deciding on the type, size, and features. The second component is financing the sign. The third component is construction of the sign.

When we contacted Tracy, BYC director, he and the board already had ideas on the design and type of sign they wanted. The front façade of the facility is designed to blend in with the row of residential homes found next to and across the road from the club. The club wanted a sign, which would reflect this same type of architecture. The club also wanted a sign with an electronic reader message board so it could advertise upcoming events and inform the public about hours of operation. We met on-site with Tracy and Ryan Kring of US Signcrafters out of Osceola to put together architectural drawings of the sign and provide a quote for construction. We requested an itemized cost quote so we could contact local contractors and businesses about providing supplies and labor. The original sign idea involved a six foot high by eight foot wide illuminated sign which included an LED reader board with brick surrounds. We took the original sign plans and contacted three other local sign companies. We asked them to provide quotes for the sign construction and also a smaller less expensive version based on their professional experiences.

The second component of the project included financing. For this, we began by writing letters to past club supporters outlining the sign project and asking for financial support of the project. We then contacted Jay Tate with Cardinal Services who introduced us to his employees who assisted us with stuffing, printing and mailing the letters (which we would highly recommend due to the fine job they did). We also designed an informative flyer, which explained the project for distribution to local businesses asking for financial support of the project. We then took a couple of days and made visits to local businesses dropping off the flyer and speaking with the owners and/or marketing personnel. We first visited businesses along the US 30 corridor from Pierceton to the west side of Warsaw. The second day we visited businesses along the SR 15 corridor from Claypool to north of Warsaw. In all, more than fifty local business visits were made. As of the time of the paper writing, more than thirteen thousand dollars have been raised towards the sign project. While the club has additional funds available to spend towards the new sign, we plan on continuing to work with them into the summer to secure additional funds until they are ready to begin work on the sign. When that decision is made, we will work with the club and contractors we have contacted to provide materials and services on project management of razing the existing sign and constructing the new sign.

FUNDRAISING LETTER TO INDIVIDUALS







Dear,

As we enter the New Year, everyone involved with the Baker Youth Club would like to thank you for your support over the years. It has been four years since the new facility has been completed. It provides a safe place for youth to spend time after school and on the weekends to do homework and socialize.

While the facility provides a wonderful, spacious, and beautiful atmosphere for more than eighty youth nightly, the sign is in disrepair. When installed, it was meant to be a temporary structure made simply of plywood. Over the past couple of years, this wooden structure has been susceptible to the harsh Northern Indiana elements and is beginning to fall apart.

BYC is in the process of erecting a new 10ft wide by 8ft tall masonry sign with an LED reader board to notify the youth and community of upcoming events and activities. The budget for this project is approximately \$25,000. Our hope is to have secured enough funds to begin the project by early February.

The staff, volunteers and youth of BYC would greatly appreciate your monetary donation in support of this project. Donations can be sent to:

> Baker Youth Club **ATTN: Sign Project** 765 W. Market St. Warsaw, IN 46580

Thank you,

Sheng Min Matthew Toge

Sherry Miner

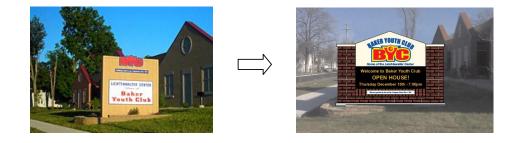
Matthew Tague

Nathan Conley

Kosciusko Leadership Academy (BYC Sign Project Team)

FLYER TO BUSINESSES





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EXISTING SIGN









NEW SIGN





THE BEGINNING

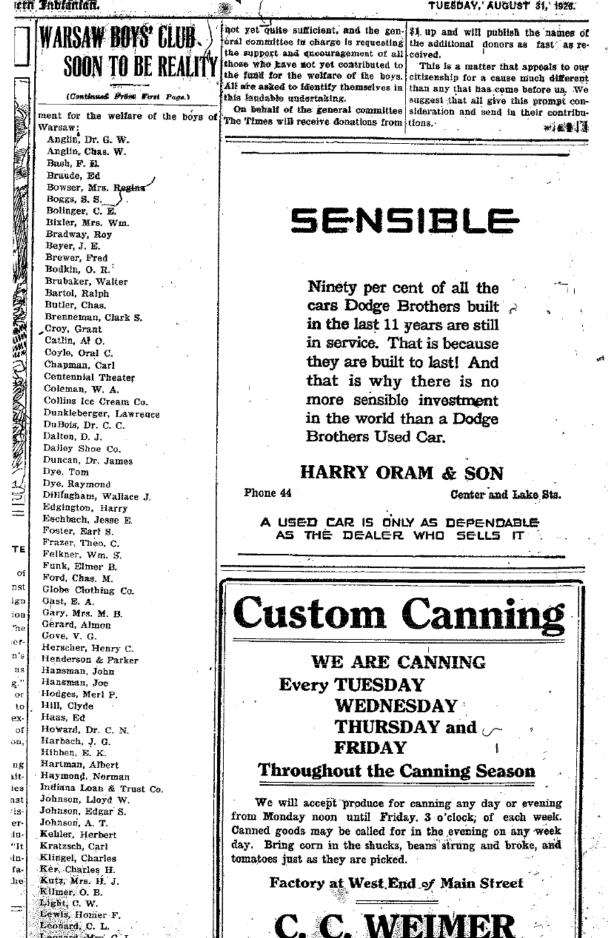


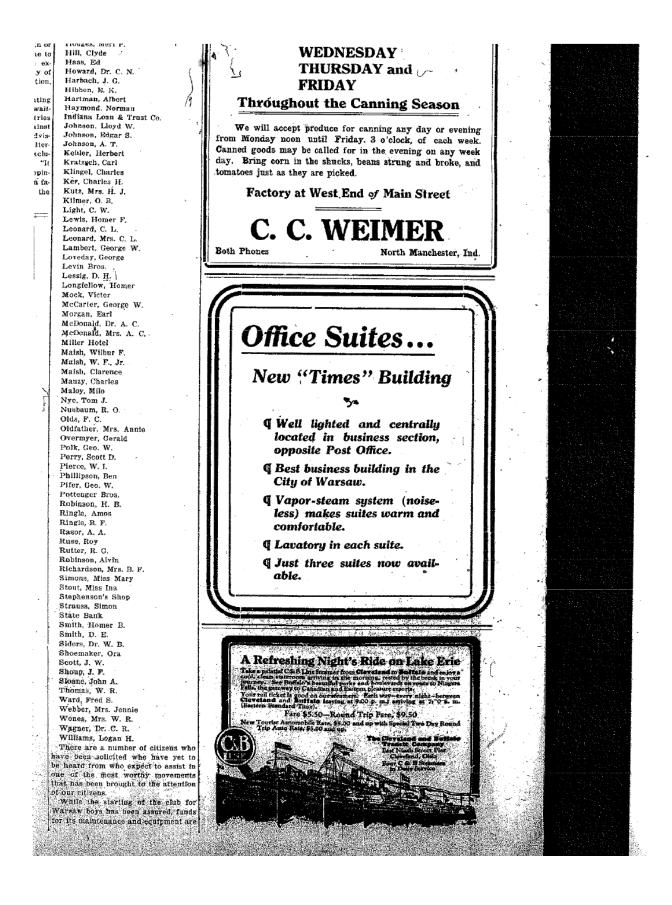
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ASKED TO ASSIST	ceive enthusisetic encouragement and here juvenile delinquency has de means so much to the underpriv-
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(Continued From First Page.)	ment is one of the most worthy ob- E. Ridley, City Manager, Bluefield, On the other hand the general com- jects that has ever been brought to W. Va. mittee of Warsaw citizens ask your
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Leonard, Mrs. C. L





Sharp's Hardware where the first Boys Club met.



Mr. & Mrs. Lee Norman "Pete" Thorn



Mr. Robert Lichtenwalter receives a car from Bledsoe Buick-Pontiac as a donation for transporting boys.



CITATIONS

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