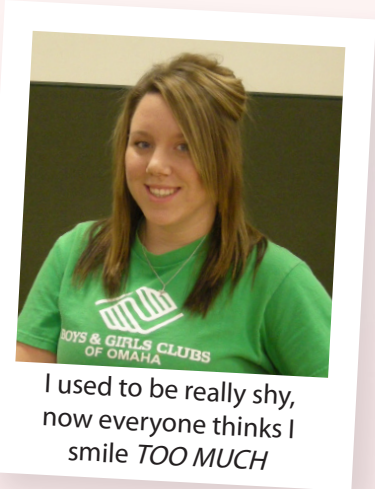


Lanie considers the Boys & Girls Club a home away from home. During some of the toughest times in her life, the Club was a place where she knew she could find friends who cared and adults who wanted to help her succeed.

Lanie began attending the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands Carter Lake Unit when she was seven years old. At that time a difficult family life left her alone much of the time to care for her younger brother. Her family life led to other problems as well. Lanie's self-esteem began to sink and she started to act out both at school and at the Club.

Seeing the changes in her behavior, Boys & Girls Clubs staff decided to step in and offer help. They would eventually introduce Lanie to many opportunities that would help her grow as a person and divert her from the path most in her situation would have gone down.



I used to be really shy, now everyone thinks I smile *TOO MUCH*

"Lanie has changed a lot through her involvement at the Club," says Josh Towey, Carter Lake Club Program Director. "She has much more direction in her life due to the activities and leadership skills she has obtained through the Keystone Club (a teen leadership & character development program) and other programs we offer here."

Today this fifteen year old Thomas Jefferson High Sophomore's life is quite different. She has gone from a shy, quiet and often scared little girl to a smiling, positive, and confident young woman.

"The Club really helped me come out of my shell," Lanie says. "I used to be really shy, now everyone thinks I smile *TOO MUCH!*"



She has learned a lot about leading by example, work ethic, and the importance of following through with her responsibilities -Towey-

She says it all started when Club staff pushed her to join one of the Club sports programs. Then she joined another... and another. Today she juggles her time between high school basketball, volleyball, track, softball, color guard and concert band.

Through all of that Lanie still finds time to make it to the Carter Lake Club nearly every day. On any given afternoon you will find her volunteering in the Club's front office, tutoring younger members or serving as the Keystone Club's Secretary. In the summer time she enjoys volunteering as a Junior Counselor at the Carter Lake Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp.

"I really like working with the kids at Summer Camp," says Lanie "I just love being outside in the summer having fun!"

"She has learned a lot about leading by example, work ethic, and the importance of following through with her responsibilities," says Towey. "She has really grown up a lot over the last two years and straightened her life out."

This statement could not be more true as this fifteen year old is already thinking about her future after high school; something that is not on the radar screen for many her age. Inspired by both her love of sports and her interest in working with youth, Lanie is very interested in perusing a degree in either Sports Marketing or Athletic Training. She is currently enrolled in her favorite class to date, Sports Marketing, and is actively seeking an internship with the Iowa Blackhawks of the Arena Football League (AFL).

Lanie's ambition, confidence and drive leave her poised on the brink of success in anything she decides to do. With the help of the Boys & Girls Clubs, Lanie has been given the tools she needs to write her own future in any way she desires.

\$500.00 provides a safe place for one child to learn and grow for a full year

\$250.00 gives hot meals to kids, many of whom would not receive any other food during the day

\$100.00 allows kids struggling in school to receive homework help from trained, educated adults

\$50.00 provides educational games and art supplies for kids to learn and...
HAVE FUN!

Kids Need the Boys & Girls Clubs

You can help Lanie and thousands of others just like her who want a better life for themselves.

Please thoughtfully consider making a gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs to let us guide them to their future.

Thank you for your support of our kids



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MIDLANDS