



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY COACHES INSPIRE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MEMBERS DURING ANNUAL TOUR STOP

VALPARAISO, IND. – JUNE 6, 2025 – Valparaiso University's annual coaches tour made a stop at the Valparaiso Boys & Girls Club on Wednesday, treating approximately 140 Club members to an exciting Q&A session. All 13 of the university's head coaches were in attendance, greeted by the kids like celebrities with shouts of excitement as they exchanged high-fives upon their entrance.

Many children eagerly approached the microphone, posing insightful questions to the coaches about pathways to athletic development and success. Younger Club members, however, showed greater interest in the coaches' favorite professional athletes and colors. The coaches clearly delighted in the children's enthusiasm and curiosity, smiling as they encouraged those interested in sports to practice diligently and keep their love for the game close to heart. The kids were particularly enthralled to have a former NBA player in their midst; men's basketball head coach, Roger Powell Jr., stopped for autographs on his way out, signing everything from t-shirts to tennis balls.

"We were incredibly excited to kick off our summer camp with a visit from Valparaiso University's Athletic Team," shared Lauren Roths, Club Director at the Valparaiso Boys & Girls Club. "Our members had a blast making posters, learning more about their favorite sports, and watching Coach Powell attempt a half-court shot! We are grateful to continue our partnership with Valparaiso University and encourage our members to be involved in their community."

Fostering healthy lifestyles and strong character are two core pillars of development at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana (BGCGNWI). Having local athletic leaders visit Club members to discuss the discipline required for success powerfully reinforces BGCGNWI's commitment to creating positive outcomes. The coaches demonstrated that anything is possible with hard work and an unwavering commitment to one's goals.

"Our annual coaches tour is an important day for us to be intentional about showing our love for our community," shared Laurel Hosmer, Director of Athletics at Valparaiso

University. "It's all about leaving campus and finding people where they are, and the kids in our community are a huge part of that. Coming to the Boys & Girls Club and having the opportunity to let them know about the incredible Division 1 university in their backyard is a privilege. We're inspired by the energy and excitement of the wonderful kids at the Boys and Girls Club and welcome the opportunity to provide some inspiration in return. We look forward to continuing to find ways to be beacons for our community and support the incredible organizations that make Valparaiso so special."

For more information about the programs or services that Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana offers, visit bgcgreaternwi.org.

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About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana provides safe and enriching environments for young people, offering programs focused on academic success, character and leadership development, and healthy lifestyles. Serving over 8,000 youth annually throughout Lake and Porter Counties, the organization is committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.