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Boys and Girls Club receives large donation



By: *Rachelle Baillon Email*

Weather for Middleton, Wisconsin

	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
	77	72	66	62
	65	63	43	39

76° F
Clear

See detailed forecast

Hourly 7Day

Radar Warnings



Boys and Girls Club Donation 6pm 9-13-13

Friday, September 13, 2013--5:50p.m.
 MADISON--The Dane County Boys and Girls Club is getting a pretty sizable donation today. They say over the next year and a half that's going to allow them to help more students succeed.



The million-dollar-plus donation will help the club support hundreds of students. Kids like Verona High School Junior Josh Beckam. "It makes me more mentally focused in class, it makes me more prepared and everything so it's a big part of my life," he said. Beckam wants to study photography in college. He's been part of the Boys and Girls Club's college club for the last two years. "Our tutors help us like with our homework and tell us like what we need to do to get to a certain point," he said. "We have goals that we have to meet by a certain time."

The largest chunk of today's donation comes from the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation. They're chipping in more than \$700,000 to the club; the remainder comes from several community groups. "We're using the money for scholarships, we're using the money to pay for tutors, we're going to exhaust all this money within the next year and a half," said Michael Johnson, the CEO of the Dane County Boys and Girls Club.

But Johnson also said they want to do more than just help kids get into college. "When you look at low income kids traditionally only about ten percent of them graduate within six years," he said. "We want our kids to not only go to college, we want them to persist and we want them to graduate and we want to make sure that those resources are there. And if we can keep these kids in Wisconsin, that's what we want to try to do."

Johnson said they're hoping to be serving 10,000 kids by 2018.

Beckam thinks today's donation will go a long way towards helping other kids like him. "I think it's a big help to everybody that wants to strive for more in their life," he said.

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