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CATCHING UP | DANE COUNTY

Catching Up: Boys & Girls Club raises \$3.4 million since March

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The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County has raised \$3.4 million as part of an ambitious

\$15 million six-year fundraising goal launched in February,

CEO Michael Johnson said.

That includes a \$1.1 million grant from several donors the club plans to announce this month.

Johnson said the campaign is slightly ahead of schedule, but he would prefer to raise as much of the \$15 million as possible sooner than later.

"We have already hired staff, expanded programs and will grow each year and spend the funds directly on the kids as it comes," Johnson said. "We have made great progress this year and I am meeting with anybody who will meet with me to invest in our kids' future."

The club doesn't plan to use the money for additional buildings, but instead to fund its new educational focus, which includes the AVID/TOPS college preparatory program for low-income, minority students.

Recently the organization has tripled the number of staff working directly in schools during the school day, Johnson said.

"If we can't demonstrate results over the years and can't meet our kids' needs, then I will be the first to hang my hat," Johnson said.

Have an idea for Catching Up?

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