



Sierra Dedman

On to a Bright Future

Boys and Girls Club Supporting Local Kids

Sierra Dedman is 18 years old and has been a member at Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro (BGCP) for 13 years! Here's what Sierra says about what Club means to her:

"I love come to Club to make friends and hang out with kids in my community, but Boys & Girls Club provides so much more than giving kids a safe space to be after school. BGCP prepared me for my next chapter by setting me up with lots of service hours, volunteer work and college tours to shoe me the wide range of opportunities my generation has for life after graduation. There is nothing my generation can't do, and Clubs have constantly adapted with the world to empower all youth to discover their full potential and build great futures."

"One of my favorite memories at BGCP is everyone racing to the van to go on field trips, and one I vividly remember is our trip to the aquarium. With all the experiences and connections Clubs

have exposed me to, I hope to go to college after graduation to study either advertising or something shark related. Clubs have guided me throughout my life to be who I am no matter what because I am unique. The relationships I have built and skills I have gained from BGCP have prepared me to pursue my dream to be successful and financially stable for me and my family."

Besides serving youth like Sierra, BGCP also prioritizes the needs of local communities and is responsive and relevant toward filling the resource and opportunity gaps they need to thrive. Last year, with the support of donors and community partners who have invested in our Clubs, BGCP served over 1,000 youth, and even more families in our communities. Our Clubs served over 45,000 hot meals and healthy snacks and administered 4,000+ Covid-19 vaccines since June 2021.

Community member can make donations to BGCP to make it possible for kids like Sierra this holiday season. Sierra's generation is depending on us to create pathways to their Great Futures. It is critical for our community to invest in these leaders of tomorrow.

Ten Facts about MLK cont'

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looking for you for five years," and she plunged a seven-inch letter opener into his chest. The tip of the blade came to rest alongside his aorta, and King underwent hours of delicate emergency surgery. Surgeons later told King that just one sneeze could have punctured the aorta and killed him. From his hospital bed where he convalesced for weeks, King issued a statement affirming his nonviolent principles and saying he felt no ill will toward his mentally ill attacker.

8. Members of King's Family Did Not Believe James Earl Ray Acted Alone

Ray, a career criminal, pled

guilty to King's assassination but later recanted. King's son Dexter met publicly with Ray in 1997 and argued for the case to be re-opened. King's widow, Coretta, believed the Mafia and local, state and federal government agencies were deeply involved in the murder. She praised the result of a 1999 civil trial in which a Memphis jury decided the assassination was the result of a conspiracy and that Ray was set up to take the blame. A U.S. Department of Justice investigation released in 2000 reported no evidence of a conspiracy.

9. King's Mother Was Also Slain by a Bullet

On June 30, 1974, as 69-year-old Alberta Williams King played

the organ at a Sunday service inside Ebenezer Baptist Church, Marcus Wayne Chenault Jr. rose from the front pew, drew two pistols and began to fire shots. One of the bullets struck and killed King, who died steps from where her son had preached non-violence. The shooting also left a church deacon dead. Chenault received a death penalty sentence that was later changed to life imprisonment, in part due to the King family's opposition to capital punishment.

10. King is a Part of an Exclusive Group

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Cesar Chavez are the only other Americans to have their birthdays observed as a National Holiday

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