

A Great Grant

Reviving Crystal Lake

Once an eyesore and dumping ground, Crystal Lake is now an oasis for children and families thanks to the vision of one nonprofit organization director, hardworking volunteers and a grant from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust.

Where once trash and more than 2,000 used tires were scattered now stands a pavilion, fishing dock and permanent bathrooms accented by 60 new trees. The 60-acre public lake is located at 6625 S.W. 15th St. in Oklahoma City. The trees were funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Boys Trust.

At the head of this transformation is Larry Bross and City Care, a nonprofit he founded in 1996 to provide assistance to homeless and low-income families. Its Whiz Kids program offers one-on-one tutoring for inner-city children. The organization has held events for Whiz Kids participants at Crystal Lake in the past and Bross saw great potential.

“It is a unique lake that is one of the few places where city residents can enjoy the great outdoors close to home,” he says.

In addition to the Boys Trust grant, Bross used volunteers through Oklahoma County’s SHINE Program to clean the property and found funders to build the pavilion and bathrooms. Crystal Lake is now one of nine neighborhood lakes in Oklahoma City that is designated as a Close to Home site. Close to Home is a partnership between the city and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation that offers



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Whiz Kids take part in an archery lesson at Crystal Lake.

fishing opportunities in the metro area. In addition, an archery shooting range has been added to the Crystal Lake property.

Bross is so pleased with the improvements at the site that City Care has created a new program, City Kids Outdoors, that strives to use trips to Crystal Lake to foster an appreciation for the outdoors among the children City Care works with. “It’s our hope that these outdoor activities will build up the children in body and spirit as they enjoy nature,” Bross adds.

Grants through the Margaret Annis Boys Trust are just one way the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is helping the community. If you’re interested in discovering how we can help you make a difference, please call us at 405/235-5603.

Helping the Community

Crystal Lake was once a neglected site but thanks to the efforts of City Care, hundreds of volunteers and a grant from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust, it is now a glistening destination for families and children.

Grants from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust are about more than planting trees and shrubs. Grants like the one to help beautify Crystal Lake symbolize a collaboration to revive a public space and improve the overall community.

Let us help you help the community. Visit www.occf.org or call us at 405/235-5603.

See more of Crystal Lake on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/occforg.




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