

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Transylvania Times October 9, 2023

Act Locally

Every time I turn on the news or open a newspaper, it truly looks like the world is coming apart. Whether it's politics, the economy, overseas wars or increased violence here at home, it's very unsettling and worse yet, all of this seems completely outside our sphere of influence. So we can rant, rave and get angry, but the reality is there's very little we can do that has an impact on these national and global challenges. However, it recently dawned on me that I can actually do something to start making the world just a little better place. And I can do that by taking action right here, right now locally to lift up our youth, our neighbors and our own community. The purpose of this letter to the editor is to share the vision and offer this challenge to take action by investing in the youth of Transylvania County.

My wife and I have come to the decision that we are going to focus on local issues and there's no better investment in this world than investing in the youth in our community. Looking at how to reach the greatest number of families, we have focused on The Cindy Platt Boys & Girls Club which annually serves 500 children from over 350 families in Transylvania County. While that's really impressive, there's a near endless waiting list of families that need the Club's services. There's a huge demand and a huge backlog of interest. But the reach is constrained due to the size and capacity of the existing facilities. The first year of the current capital campaign is well underway, and the Club has already broken ground to DOUBLE the capacity of the facilities. We've purchased an adjacent church building which has been converted into a new Teen Center. This allows us to get our middle school and high school teens back from those satellite locations back onto our campus. The current construction project will dramatically increase the size of the main Boys & Girls Club clubhouse. But in order to bring this vision to reality, we need as many good people as possible to lean into this project and support the capital campaign.

And here's the challenge, next time you hear someone engage in one of those conversations "hey, did you hear about this or that on TV, and doesn't that make you angry", well, flip that around and say, "hey man, I agree we need to do something ... why don't you and me stop complaining and start changing the world but let's start RIGHT HERE in Transylvania County and let's start by helping our youth". Become part of the vision by visiting <https://www.bgctransylvania.org/capital-campaign>. We have an event planned on October 10th, and also our annual Boston Butts Fundraiser on October 21st. All contributions to the Boston Butts Fundraiser will be matched, without limit, so there is no better time to take action to help lift our families in Transylvania County.

Sincerely,

Clay and Lisa Sykes