



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

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## **Local nonprofit CHARISM will merge after-school programs with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley**

**Fargo, ND.** CHARISM's Board of Directors and the leadership team have been working on strategies to bring greater long-term sustainable support to the kids and families CHARISM serves in all their programs. CHARISM has been intentional and very fortunate to have built a network of great partners and collaborators over the years, so the strategy that brought the best support as well as maintained CHARISM's core mission in the neighborhood was to form program merger partnerships with key partners.

CHARISM has worked with and partnered with Boys and Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley (BGCRRV), as well as the Fargo Police Department Community Trust Officers, in the past with one of CHARISM's summer programs and the C4 Summer Camp. Both CHARISM and BGCRRV have after-school programs that run side by side in two of Fargo Public School's elementary schools and those programs and staff have formed mutually respectful and cordial relationships. From sharing the playground and gym space together to sharing activity equipment and supplies as well as having some kids participate in both programs on different occasions, the closeness in the programs was very evident.

It wasn't a big surprise that when CHARISM's Board of Directors and leadership team approached Boys and Girls Club with a proposal to combine resources for after-school programming, and Boys and Girls Club were thrilled and very receptive to the opportunity. With careful and thoughtful planning, both organizations and their respective Board of Directors agreed that a merger of the two organizations under Boys and Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley name and organizational structure would be the best way forward.

**The merger of the two organizations is set to take place in June 2020 with the start of summer programs and activities for kids, youth, and families.**

Some of the highlights of the merger are all kids and families currently being served in CHARISM's after-school programs will continue to be served with no disruption to programs during the current school year. Summertime and the 2020-2021 school year

will look different for some families, but will come with more options, resources, and opportunities for all families. CHARISM's neighborhood focus and support for kids and families will be retained with the continuation of the kid's program that runs at CHARISM's Youth Center building near McCormick Park next to the Arbors at McCormick Park Apartment Complex.

As the greatest and most important resource and reason for the success in all of CHARISM's programs, all current CHARISM staff members, including the leadership team, have been informed, invited, and welcomed to take the opportunity and option to transition to being a part of the Boys and Girls Club team. This merger presents more resources, infrastructure, and growth opportunities for all staff members as well.

The burning question that may arise, "is CHARISM okay"? The fact this question is raised is indicative of the caring and supportive community that CHARISM is fortunate to be a part of in the F-M area. CHARISM is absolutely okay; this merger plan is the result of CHARISM's Board of Directors and leadership team forward thinking. CHARISM is extremely grateful for all our partners, funders, and supporters that have made and continue to make the difference in the lives of the kids and families that CHARISM serves. We are looking forward excitedly to the long-term positive impact this merger will bring to the CHARISM neighborhood and to the community.

END



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# FAQ

Q: When is the merger taking place?

A: CHARISM and the Boys and Girls Club will continue to work closely together to ensure the best transition happens without interruption to programs by June 2020.

Q: Is CHARISM going away?

A: CHARISM will no longer exist as its own 501c3 organization. The missional focus of CHARISM to be present in the neighborhood to serve the families and kids that need us will continue under the Boys and Girls Club. There will still be a kid's program running in the CHARISM's Youth Center building near McCormick Park next to the Arbors at McCormick Park Apartment Complex. For brand continuity and eliminating confusion, CHARISM's name will no longer be used, instead, all of CHARISM's after-school and summer programs and activities will now be under the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley name.

Q: What happens to kids and families currently being served in CHARISM's after-school and summer programs?

A: All the kids and families currently being served by CHARISM will continue to be served under the Boys and Girls Club. In fact, kids and families will have more options and opportunities available to them with this merger.

Q: How about CHARISM's staff?

A: As the greatest and most important resource and reason for the success in all of CHARISM's programs, all current CHARISM staff members, including the leadership team, have been informed, invited, and welcomed to take the opportunity and option to transition to being a part of the Boys and Girls Club team. This merger also presents more resources, infrastructure, and growth opportunity for all staff members.

Q: Why a merger?

A: CHARISM's Board of Directors and leadership team have explored several options and strategies for long-term sustainability for CHARISM's mission and programs for a long time. A merger was the best option to strengthen CHARISM's core mission while also growing resources and opportunities available to kids, families, and staff members.

Q: What happens to all the other programs CHARISM has?

A: Similar to how CHARISM is merging with the Boys and Girls Club for all after-school and summer programs, CHARISM is also transitioning its other programs to merge with other organizations whose missional focuses aligns with the programs CHARISM has, and who will help maintain and grow the sustainability of those programs.

Q: Who should I contact if I have more questions?

A: You can contact James Nagbe, Interim Executive Director of CHARISM, as well as Robin Nelson, CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley. Their contact information and the best channel to communicate with them can be found on their organization's website:  
[www.charism.org](http://www.charism.org) and [www.bgcrrv.org](http://www.bgcrrv.org)