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Boys and Girls Club to receive \$95K from UW Athletics Funds will support education programs

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MADISON, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Athletics has selected the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County to receive a \$95,000 donation, according to a release.

The donation will be used to assist children with academic and life skills support, and child safety programs, according to the release.

“Our organization is thankful for the many opportunities that UW Intercollegiate Athletics has provided for our local kids over the years,” Michael Johnson, CEO of Boys and Girls Club of Dane County said in the release.

The DCBGC will use the funds to support a five-year plan to ensure



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students graduate from high school and receive a post-secondary education, according to the release.

The plan includes a two-year program to support child safety programs like Internet safety and helping students identify threatening situations involving developing healthy relationships, a strong self-identity and strong interpersonal boundaries, according to the release. The funds will also be used to support College Club, which is an academic support and college prep program that currently serves over 150 at-risk students in grades 6-12 at Cherokee and Wright Middle Schools and Verona High School.

“It’s unfortunate how the funds came about, but I think this community can utilize those funds to make sure that we invest those resources in young people and that’s what we intend to do,” Johnson said.

The donation money comes from football bowl game money that Penn State lost after their punishment as a result of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal, according to the release. The Big Ten Conference announced last year that Penn State would not receive its share of bowl money and that those funds would be given to charitable organizations focused on the protection of children in Big Ten communities.

“When these resources became available, I wanted to make sure a local organization dedicated to the well-being of young people would benefit,” Barry Alvarez, director of Intercollegiate Athletic at UW-Madison, said in the release.

The UW Athletics Department will present the check to the Boys and Girls Club on Friday at the Taft Street location at 11 a.m.

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