

## Community Campus in Brigham City Brings Activities for Youth, Training for Adults, Housing for Families, and Hope for the City



*This repurposed elementary school in Brigham City provides a place for youth activities and office space for over a dozen nonprofit organizations.*

BRIGHAM CITY, UTAH – What had been the vacant former old schoolhouse of Mountain View Elementary now has new life. The display on the message board proudly states, “Welcome to the Boys and Girls Club.”

On Wednesday, November 7, 2024, community members, volunteers, lenders, nonprofits, contractors, and congressional leaders all spilled into the auditorium at the Boys and Girls Club Community Campus, the warmth and sense of community was felt everywhere. Senator Scott Sandall was the first on the stage to welcome all attendees and thank everyone for the support they had given. The Boys & Girls Club was able to secure \$1 million in a [USDA Rural Development Community Facilities](#) grant through congressionally directed spending, to purchase the building from the city. Additionally, through generous donations, they raised an additional \$4 million for renovations and operating costs... and to start plans for a domestic violence shelter on property behind the community center.

“I like to say I need ‘pretty things.’ What I mean is, I need running water and roofs that don’t leak.”

*-JeuneElle Jeffries*

As others stood to speak of their gratitude – from congressional leaders to contractors – many reflected on their own experience as children in the Boys and Girls Club, and the impact it made on their lives.



*Community Members, contractors, and volunteers all join to celebrate the Boys and Girls Club Community Center Open house*

The final speaker, CEO JeuneElle Jeffries, shared her vision of the Community Center, and the days she spent working to make this dream a reality for the community. JeuneElle previously managed the Boys and Girls Club in Brigham City out of a rented office and an occasional gymnasium space offered by the generosity of the community. They needed more room to provide adequate assistance to the community. When the City acquired the old schoolhouse after the students moved into a new, larger facility, JeuneElle knew it was just right for their needs.

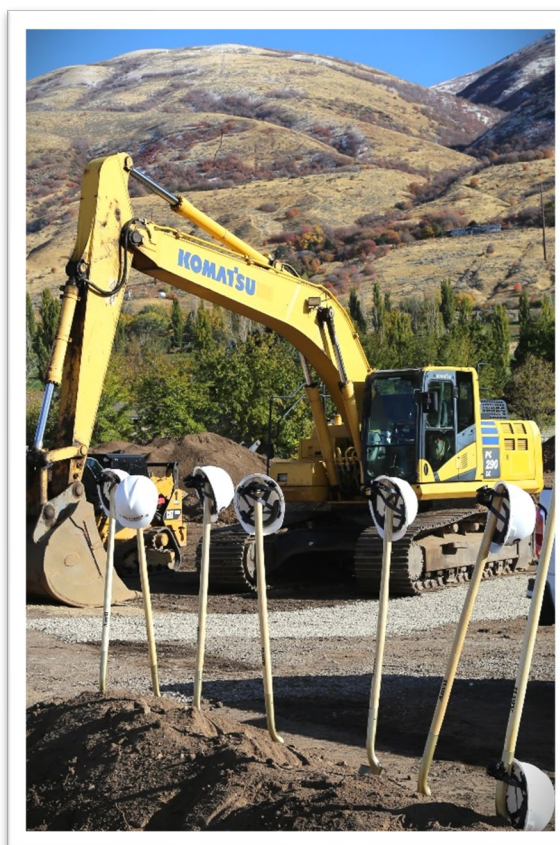
"I like to say I need 'pretty things.' What I mean is, I need running water and roofs that don't leak," JeuneElle said. The schoolhouse would need a little work, but it had a lot of potential. The city agreed to hold the property for them while she secured funding to purchase and renovate the building... and she did just that.

"Some people have persistence, and others have tenacity." Said Senator Sandall. "JeuneElle has tenacity like I've never seen." After receiving the notice for funding, the paperwork began. Submitting the documents needed to verify eligibility and closing came as a surprise for JeuneElle. She persisted through and was able to provide all the needed information. She joked about the 2-hour preliminary site visit and thanked the Rural Development Specialists & Engineers that helped her until closing the grant.

From the moment the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Utah received keys to the building, many other nonprofit organizations were equally excited, as they had the opportunity to bring their organizations to the center. This provides vital services for all people looking for



*Participating organizations displayed "Dream Boards" with plans and events for the new community center.*



*Groundbreaking shovels and hardhats celebrate the new construction of a domestic violence shelter and expanded community center*

community assistance; from daycare, to work skills, to finding a home. Of the organizations to call the community center home, Habitat for Humanity, 4-H, Boy Scouts, and Days for Girls are only a few that reside in the new space.

[The Boys & Girls Club of Northern Utah](#) serves Box Elder & Cache counties with 3 locations in Brigham City, Garland, and Logan.



[USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Programs](#) offer direct loans, loan guarantees and grants to develop or improve essential public services and facilities in communities across rural America. These amenities help increase the competitiveness of rural communities in attracting and retaining businesses that provide employment and services for their residents. To apply, contact your local Rural Development Utah office, or visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/ut> for more information.

<b><u>Obligation Amount:</u></b>	<b><u>Program:</u></b>	<b><u>Obligation Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Congressional:</u></b>
\$1,000,000	Community Facilities, 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending	April 8, 2024	UT 01, Rep. Blake Moore, Senator Mike Lee, Senator Mitt Romney, Rep. Scott Sandall