100 Years of Growing
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Celebrating a centennial takes on many forms. One hundred years of growing can mean different things to different people. I’m continually amazed, surprised and proud of the creativity and innovation of our staff, volunteers and youth. These are the characteristics of a vibrant organization that has evolved and grown in countless ways over the past 100 years. If we hadn’t changed, we’d still be a boy’s club planting corn. If we hadn’t changed, we wouldn’t have had a role in reducing scurvy in our country. If we hadn’t changed, we wouldn’t have over 15,000 volunteers working with us. If we hadn’t changed we wouldn’t be developing life skills such as communication, leadership and citizenship that change peoples’ lives and the communities in which we live. If we hadn’t changed we’d still be using mimeograph machines, manual typewriters, and “penalty mail” to communicate with families and one another.

We’ve passed the half-way mark of our Centennial year yet still have many more opportunities to reflect on our heritage, celebrate our present, and look to the future with open eyes, hearts, and minds. Without an openness to possibility, we wouldn’t have 100 years of experience, difficult learning experiences, and success to look back upon. Thanks to you all for all you have done!