



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

OF BROWARD COUNTY

www.bgcbc.org

H. Wayne & Marti Huizenga Campus
David & Kay Hughes Administrative Headquarters
877 Northwest 61st Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Phone: 954-537-1010
Fax: 954-537-1070

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive caring and responsible citizens. Our goal is to provide world-class Club experiences that assure success is within reach of every child who walks through our doors. We want all members to graduate from high school with a plan for the future; demonstrate good character and citizenship by participating in leadership training and volunteering in community projects; and engage in nutritional education and physical fitness activities that promote living a healthy lifestyle.

History of Organization:

In 1965, a committee of five community members came together and founded the Boys Club of Broward County, to serve boys in underserved communities in the Fort Lauderdale area. During the first two years, utilizing abandoned Church locations, the doors were opened at two Clubs which are now known as the Lester H. White and Nan Knox Units. Having a significant impact on decreasing vandalism claims and juvenile arrest rates in the communities where they were located, the demand for more Clubs grew over the next 20 years and seven more Clubs were opened in neighborhoods across Broward County.

In 1990 when it came evident that girls were just as in need as boys of a safe, nurturing, out-of-school time facility, the Board agreed to modify existing Clubs, hire additional staff and expand programming to become the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County (BGCBC) that exists today.

With the addition of 2 new Clubs in the late 1990's and the chartering of two Club solely for teen members, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is now made up of 13 chartered Clubs with a membership of over 7,000 youth annually. Supported by many of the most prominent members of our community, BGCBC is proud to be the 5th largest Club in the nation.

Last year, BGCBC served 7,298 youth, ages 6-18, throughout Broward County. Of our members, 66% live in single-parent households; 87% qualify for free or reduced lunch; 81% attended Title 1 schools and 43% of member families reported that they earn less than \$20,000 annually. Our

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equation for success includes providing after school and summer programming in three core areas: Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. BGCBC's programs and services have a positive impact on our members' academic success. **During the 2021-2022 program year, 96% of members progressed to the next grade level on time, 95% of senior members graduated from high school and 76% of senior members enrolled in college.**

Our Programs

Academic Success

BGCBC implements a range of programs under our core component of academic success that respond to the cognitive needs of our members. With the different learning styles of our members in mind, we have developed and implemented educational programs that can be administered on a computer, in small and large groups, or using the arts. One of which, our Youth Education Success (YES) program, provides members in grades 1-8 with a comprehensive education program that seeks to improve their reading and math competency levels. In an effort to address the outcomes of positive school performance and increased academic skills, BGCBC's YES program combines multiple components to reinforce what the student learns in school and builds his/her reading and math skills. YES begins with Power Hour, an hour of hands-on homework assistance, and is then followed by two hours of skill-building through individualized computer lessons using i-Ready. Through the administration of the YES and Homework Help programs, BGCBC and Broward County Public Schools have partnered to share i-Ready licenses along with data sharing strategies. The i-Ready licenses and data-sharing initiative strengthens the YES and Homework Help program to enable our children to receive individualized assistance while at the club. Communication with parents helps i-Ready teachers at the club identify academic needs among members throughout the school year. BGCBC is an extension of the school day; Clubs hire certified Broward County School teachers to administer i-Ready afterschool along with Homework Help. **During the 2021-2022 program year, 1,150 members participated in the Youth Education Success (YES) program.**

Good Character and Citizenship

Our Clubs provide opportunities for all members to engage in community service learning projects. BGCBC understands the importance of civic engagement among youth. As our members reach out to the community, they are evolving into caring, empathetic citizens who

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lend a hand to their fellow community members and actively work to make their community a better place. Programs such as the Dale Carnegie Public Speaking and Leadership Development Program, Keystone Club for teenagers, Torch Club for pre-teens, and Youth of the Year, prepare our members to be the leaders that their neighborhoods so desperately need. During the 2021-2022 school year:

- **33 Volunteer Projects Completed in the Community by Members Ages 10 – 18**
- **4,885 Total Project Volunteer Hours Completed**
- **1,320 Members participated in College & Career Programs**
- **110 Club members participated in the Keystone Club**
- **150 Club members participated in the Torch Club**
- **10 Keystone members attended the virtual Keystone Conference**
- **160 families took part in the Family Strengthening Program**

Healthy Lifestyles

Encouraging our members to take on a lifelong commitment to healthy nutrition and physical fitness is a top priority of our organization. Our fitness programs improve our members’ strength and endurance levels while also incorporating fair play, good sportsmanship and teamwork. On May 13th, 2016, during the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference, BGCBC received the national Honor Award for Health & Life Skills for our work at promoting Healthy Lifestyles through the following programs. In April 2017, BGCBC was also recognized as an Honoree by the Florida Blue Foundation for our Healthy Lifestyles Initiative at the 2017 Sapphire Awards.

The Child Care Food Program offers a free nutritious snack and hot supper to every member Monday thru Saturday. The program, which has served over 8 million healthy snacks and meals to Club members since 2011, provides youth with the nutrients that they may not be receiving at home due to income insufficiencies or inadequate information on healthy eating behaviors. The Program also strives to have a lasting impact on our members by introducing them to new,

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healthy foods that they will continue to incorporate in their diets into adulthood.

As an organization devoted to decreasing hunger insecurity in Broward County, BGCBC began the Defeating Food Insecurity Program in 2013 to provide members and their families who are in need with protein-fortified ready to cook meals each week. The Program provides families with meals to take home which can then provide nutrition to all members of the family. This allows hard-working parents to not have to dip into rent money in order to eat. In addition to the meal packages given to families that provide up to six meals per pack, benefits awareness materials and application assistance tools are distributed to ensure that our families in need are taking advantage of federally funded programs.

To further respond to our members' nutritional needs, the Weekend Lunch Box Program provides them with a healthy take-home snack that they receive upon their departure from the Club. Members are given a pack that includes two meals that can be easily opened and eaten without the assistance of an adult. This ensures that our members will have something to eat on Sunday when the Clubs are not open. Filling in the gap between what parents can afford and our members' needs, BGCBC's programs provide solutions to the nutritional deficiencies that our members incur each day. **During the 2021-2022 program year, we served 517,748 healthy snacks and meals; and Club members performed 488,762 hours of physical fitness activities.**

Workforce Development Programs

BGCBC's Workforce Development Initiative is modeled off of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) National initiative and is designed to promote the development of critical employment skills among our youth through research-informed youth development practice, training and experiential learning opportunities that lead to first job readiness and a plan for pursuing postsecondary and/or career aspirations. BGCBC's Workforce Development Initiative will increase teen's employability through career exploration, mentorship, opportunities to earn credentials, soft skills training, technical skills training and career experiences. BGCBC was 1 of 20 Boys & Girls Clubs markets chosen nationwide to pilot the Workforce Development Initiative. BGCBC received \$40,000 from Boys & Girls Clubs of America to implement Career Launch, Money Matters and SkillsUSA. In January 2017, BGCBC launched the three programs in 11 Club

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sites, where Broward County School Teachers and BGCBC Youth Development Professionals administered the sessions.

During the 2021-2022 program year:

- **104 Teen members completed the Career Launch program**
- **90 Teen members completed the Money Matters program**
- **95 Teen members completed the Bring Your A Game program**
- **762 members participated in Pop Up Career shops**
- **22 members participated in Rosh Lowe's Mike Drop program**
- **160 Teen members participated in Broward College presentations**
- **100 members participated in General's Construction Career Day**
- **160 members participated in Annual Career Day**

In addition, College and Career Programs that have been developed internally expose members to careers in Aviation, Culinary Arts, Media Arts, woodworking, motorcycle repair and the marine industry to name a few. Each year, our Annual Career Day brings together local and national companies/franchises, colleges and business owners/executives to present to over 200 youth about different career options including Nursing, Law Enforcement, Private Investigation, Education, Business Management and Construction. Members also tour local colleges and universities and attend the Greater Ft. Lauderdale College Fair hosted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). BGCBC has been successful in connecting young people to full-time and part-time employment through various programs. The Generals Club Construction Program gets Club Members engaged and excited about a career in the trades by offering career tours, interactive carpentry classes and the Annual Generals Construction Career Day (GCCD). Since the program's inception, over 100 teen members have earned an OSHA 10 certification through the program and 18 BGCBC members are employed or have completed internships in the construction and building industry.

Project Evaluation

All Club programs are evaluated through the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Commitment to

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Quality evaluation tool, as well as by the numbers of children participating. Other forms of evaluation include pre- and post-tests, questionnaires and final projects. BGCBC also uses KidTrax, which is a fully integrated, web-based software in which we collect, input and analyze data about our Club members and programs. We track age, gender, school affiliation, Club visits, and participation in specific programs, volunteer hours, as well as information about our members' families, such as household status, income and siblings. KidTrax gives us the ability to chart our Club member's participation and progress over time. The performance and outcome measurement dashboards easily shows our organizational leaders and funders exactly how our programs are making an impact in the lives of our Club members, which leads us to better decision making with our programming.

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