

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

To say that a lot has changed since I became the CEO and Executive Director of the BGCCIL, would be an understatement.

I assumed this role in January 2020. A mere two months later we were faced with an unprecedented scenario created by the pandemic. In order to continue to serve our members, and community at large, we had to pivot, and pivot quickly.

After briefly closing the Club sites due to pandemic restrictions, we were proud to open again last summer for a robust, though scaled down, Summer Camp. Gone were field trips and some of the other staples from our traditional camp program. CDC protocols were firmly in place. In an effort to serve more than the allotted number of attendees, we implemented V-club (virtual club programming) to serve those who could not attend camp in person.

We shifted our focus to include whatever supplemental services and initiatives we could that would help our community as a whole. We added food distributions and offered vaccine clinics. We supplied weekend snack-packs, turkeys, fans, Christmas presents, beds for Club kids who had never had one, and more.

When school did not resume in person last fall, we extended our hours of operation to full-day for all remote learners, hiring additional staff, providing meals, tutoring, and assistance with Zoom classes. Our members had a safe place to be, and friends to be with. In the midst of all this WE MANAGED TO ADD EIGHT ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SITES, four in Springfield and four in Jacksonville. And when all was said and done, we came out stronger than ever.

By the time this summer came around we were back to a full Summer Camp-125 members. Campers had a wonderful summer learning and exploring at Camp Sertoma and Lincoln Memorial Gardens. They took field trips to a farm, museums, St. Louis Science Center, and various other places. Forty-five teens participated in Career Launch, learning about different



TIFFANY MATHIS  
CEO & Executive Director

careers through field trips and job shadowing. They also received coaching on employment best practices, do's and don'ts for success, and how to apply for and secure jobs.

Yes, a lot changed in a short period of time. But THE ONE THING THAT REMAINS CONSISTENT IS THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, OUR BOARD MEMBERS, AND OUR AMAZING STAFF! Without their collective efforts we would not be THE SECOND LARGEST BOYS & GIRLS CLUB ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE! We are thankful to all our donors, (especially the private donor who gifted \$250,000 to ensure our remote learners could come to the Club, full-day, at no added cost to our hard working families) all who contributed to our Superhero campaign last fall, all who offered services and in-kind donations, and provided much needed supplies. We could not have had the success we did without all of you. Thank you so much.

We look forward to more growth, a successful school year and continued partnerships with community organizations.

I am honored to be a part of this organization and look forward to building GREAT FUTURES for all our members.

*Tiffany Mathis*



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

2020  
2021

# PANDEMIC IMPACT REPORT

## OUR REACH



\*Fully staffed. Number has varied throughout pandemic.

## PANDEMIC PIVOT

**Food Distributions:** In May of 2020 we started weekly food distributions at our Central Unit. We partnered with the Central Illinois Food Bank to provide a combination of dairy, protein and produce every Wednesday to members of our community in a drive-thru fashion. This program continues to date.

In addition to the weekly distributions the Club held special events for Thanksgiving and Easter handing out 200 turkeys and 200 meat bundles, prior to the respective holidays. We also hosted a Subway food giveaway as well as one provided by a local Mexican restaurant. Each event fed 250 people.

In August we had two successful free farmers markets where attendees were able to choose their own desired produce. This served 100 families in Jacksonville and 200 families in Springfield.

From May 2020 through July 2021

BGCCIL has distributed  
**513,923 lbs**  
of food

feeding roughly  
**16,000**  
families

When the Going  
**GETS TOUGH**  
the Tough Get  
**GROWING**

## MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

**100% QUALIFY**  
for free or reduced school lunches

**79% AGE**  
12 or younger

**78.29% MINORITY**  
(non-white)

**63.79%**  
Single Parent Household

**21%**  
are teens





**Weekend Snack Backpacks:** at the BGCCIL we know that Hunger Doesn't Take the Weekend Off. To combat the food insecurities members face when the club is closed, we provide Weekend Snack Backpacks every Friday through the summer. They are filled with healthy snacks, microwavable meals, drinks, etc.

*In 2020 we had a food drive that provided snacks for 1,000 weekend backpacks.*

**In 2021, the program increased through two grants**

**we sent home 3,500 backpacks over the 10-week summer stretch.**



## REMOTE LEARNING

*Keeping Working Families Working*

When the 2020 school year started, District 186 in Springfield made the decision to hold classes 100% remotely. The Club restructured quickly, setting up safe

workstations, installing plexiglass and following all CDC protocols so that we could allow students to attend in person for their remote learning. Knowing that not all parents have the ability to work from home, we made it a priority to offer solution to keep our members, safe, engaged and to allow working parents to continue to work.

Transitioning from the traditional after-school model of being open from 2:30-6:00pm to a new remote learning schedule required the Club locations to be open 7:30am to 5:30pm. This significant expansion of services came at a cost

and unfortunately that required assessing a much higher fee to remote learning than regular after-school programming and that put an additional strain on our already struggling families.

**A VERY GENEROUS PRIVATE DONATION OF**

**\$250,000**

**covered the added operational costs of supporting full-day programming at all Springfield BGCCIL locations**

*as well as alleviating the weekly fees that families were assessed for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.*



+ new this year  
\* opening soon

## GROWTH

BGCCIL has historically served nine locations. Since August 2020, we have successfully opened eight new Club sites: four in Jacksonville and four more sites in Springfield. PLUS the BGCCIL recently secured another grant which will allow the expansion into five more sites very soon.

### SPRINGFIELD

- \*Ball Charter Elementary
- \*Carl Sandburg Elementary
- +Grant Middle School
- +Hazel Dell Elementary
- +Jane Addams Elementary
- +McClermand Elementary
- \*Owen Marsh Elementary

### JACKSONVILLE

- +Jacksonville Middle School
- +Lincoln Elementary
- \*Murrayville Woodson Elementary
- \*North Elementary
- +South Elementary
- +Washington Elementary



*The BGCCIL return to Jacksonville marks the first time that community has had options for after-school programming in over a decade.*

## SUPPORT THE BGCCIL

The BGCCIL is proud to be the leading youth after-school agency in Central Illinois. With your generous support, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois will continue to transform after-school hours for thousands of youth and families in Springfield and Jacksonville and create opportunities to help more kids and teens **ACHIEVE GREAT FUTURES.**

SCAN HERE

