BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022
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Our mission at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois is to have a transformational impact on the children and teens we serve, providing educational support, learning opportunities and life experiences to ensure every young person who enters our doors has an equal shot at success. It’s a simple premise, but as challenges continue to grow, including years of disruption caused by the pandemic, achieving these goals requires bold vision and leadership to continue our march forward.

That’s exactly what Tiffany and her team deliver for our community day in and day out. When schools had to close, the club was open to provide a safe space for children, ensuring they had access to remote learning, healthy food, warm coats and even beds. When others were cutting services, we grew - expanding into Jacksonville and adding sites in Springfield to provide children with academic support and a secure place to play and grow. We partnered with local employers to foster year-round exploration and development through field trips and job shadowing, where teens receive employment coaching designed to prepare them for the workforce. And we’ve successfully leveraged our unique position as Illinois’ capital city club, growing relationships with local, state and national officials to advocate for high quality programming and serve as a leading voice for our youth.

None of this would be possible without your generous giving, we thank you for continued support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois now and throughout the entire year. Together, we are shaping Great Futures.
Today I write in gratitude and reflection: proud of our accomplishments both state and nationwide, confident in our strategic growth and vision for the future, and inspired by the generosity of our board members, volunteers, donors, corporate sponsors, and community partners. At Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, we are passionate about ensuring all youth and families in the Springfield and Jacksonville areas have access to our afterschool/out-of-school time programs, recreational activities, academic support, and most importantly, basic needs and resources. With the disruption of in-person learning that our youth have experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, our afterschool and summer enrichment programs are needed more than ever before. Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring that all youth who need us most are receiving advocacy, proper state and federal funding, academic support, social and emotional engagement, warm meals, and the mentorship they need to thrive and grow.

Since June 2020, my entire team has worked incredibly hard to expand our services and reach from nine locations to twenty-two locations across two school districts and counties: further increasing our impact. With twenty-one of our locations conveniently housed inside District #186 and #117 public school buildings, we can continue meeting the immense needs of our youth, where they are while standing in the gap for parents, guardians, and caretakers; keeping our working families, working, and engaged.

THANK YOU ALL for another fulfilling year and for helping the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois remain mission-driven and effective as we lead boldly into 2023. We simply could not have accomplished this without EACH ONE OF YOU!
CLUB LOCATIONS

Our afterschool programs proudly serve youth and families at the following locations:

**School Based Units**

1. **Dubois Elementary**  
   120 South Lincoln Ave.

2. **Fairview Elementary**  
   2200 Ridgely Ave.

3. **Franklin Middle School**  
   1200 Outer Park Dr.

4. **Grant Middle School**  
   1800 W Monroe St.

5. **Harvard Park Elementary**  
   2501 S. 11th St.

6. **Hazel Dell Elementary**  
   850 West Lake Shore Dr.

7. **Jane Addams Elementary**  
   10 Babiak Ln.

8. **Matheny-Withrow Elementary**  
   1200 Pope Ave.

9. **McClenand Elementary**  
   801 North 6th St.

10. **Owen Marsh Elementary**  
    1100 Avon Dr.

11. **Black Hawk Elementary**  
    2500 South College St.

12. **Ridgely Elementary**  
    2040 North 8th St.

13. **Sandburg Elementary**  
    2051 Wabash Ave.

14. **Springfield Ball Charter Elementary**  
    2530 E Ash St.

15. **St. Patrick Catholic School**  
    1800 South Grand Ave.

**Morgan County**

1. **Jacksonville Middle School**  
   664 South Lincoln

2. **Lincoln Elementary**  
   320 West Independence Ave.

3. **Murrayville Woodson**  
   211 West State St.

4. **North Jacksonville Elementary**  
   1626 State Highway 78

5. **South Jacksonville Elementary**  
   1700 South West St.

6. **Washington Elementary**  
   524 South Kosciusko St.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR CLUB KIDS

3:30-4:00 Arrive and enjoy snacks and recess

4:00-5:00 **Power Hour** - engaging homework assistance and tutoring program that encourages Club members of every age to become self-directed learners.
**5:00-6:00** Enrichment - this is a broad category encompassing all things that bring new experiences to our members. This includes activities such as Culinary Club, science experiments, garden club, art club, service projects, anti-bullying activities, sports, e-gaming and much more.

*On Wednesdays our members have an extra hour at their sites during which the focus is on:

**Positive Action**
- team building activities
- self reflection journals
- emotion identification & regulation

**Social Emotional Learning**
A curriculum which focuses on teamwork, self-health, being a friend, respect, etc.
Career Launch - *Preparing Youth for Great Futures*

When young people are introduced to the world of work, they’re more likely to dream big and connect what they’re learning to future career opportunities. Boys & Girls Clubs help teens recognize their potential and develop the skills necessary to become anything they dream.

We help young people meet the workforce challenges of tomorrow, they need safe spaces, positive mentorship and work experiences today.

**At BGCCIL, we allow kids and teens to:**

- Explore their interests and passions
- Develop their employability skills
- Apply their knowledge to real-world work experiences

Career Launch, designed specifically for ages 13-18, provides meaningful experiences today so teens are ready to chase their dreams tomorrow.

During the school year we service 200 teens across our many locations. In the summer we host a concentrated 8-week Career Launch program that meets Monday through Friday from 12pm - 5pm and from 7am - 7pm on Wednesdays, the day set aside for field trips. Lack of physical space and transportation options have limited the enrollment in the Summer Career Launch to 40 teens. Due to a grant from PNC Bank we will be able to double the number of participants in Summer 2023.
This summer program really helped me figure out how many opportunities there are for me. I had fun and was able to make new friends and catch up with my old friends. I can't wait to do it again next year.

- Demarcus L., 13

I like going to Lincoln Land and the other college tours. Going to them helped me decide on what I want to do when I graduate high school. I want to be a lawyer or phlebotomist. I learned what to expect from college when I go. I also was able to meet new teens and build relationships with them.

- Finale T., 14

Teen Lounge Makeover
The Teen Lounge got a makeover and re-dedication this year giving our teens a comfortable, cool place to gather, study, play games and just be teens.

When I decided to join BGCCIL I came in knowing I wanted to make a change. Upon seeing the conditions in the teen room I knew that teens would not feel comfortable relaxing and enjoying their time here since it was set up as a classroom. The new Teen Lounge will be a home away from home for our teens. It will be a place they can feel like is theirs. Everything is focused around our youth from the comfort of the electric seating to the video games and virtual job training interactive program.

- Sierra Shepherd, Central Unit Site Director - Career Launch Coordinator
**Basketball**
The BGCCIL youth basketball program has been revitalized and now serves roughly 200 members in grades K-9. With fully co-ed teams comprised of members from our various sites our youth learn the value of teamwork, build on fundamentals, and compete weekly in a BGCCIL league. Additionally we field a high school team that competes in UA tournaments around the area.

**Dance**
Springfield Youth Performance Group staff, volunteers and dancers host free weekly dance classes for our members on Fridays. Each week attendees are taught classical ballet, jazz, music appreciation and participate in a ballet related activity. The program culminates with a BGCCIL recital in the spring.
I feel like our basketball program is a great opportunity for the kids who have never played before.

- Beiyontae H., 11

This is my first time ever playing basketball and I love it. I feel like I am learning a lot.

- King H., 9

**Cheer**

We now have a cheerleading program for our elementary-age members with enough participants to field squads from four of our sites.
NEW TO YOUTH CAMP 2022:

Weekly program with Springfield Police Dept.

Trips to Peoria Zoo & New Salem Talent Show

NEW TO CAREER LAUNCH 2022:

Visit to Lincoln University

Mondays at Lincoln Land Community College

Visits to Midwest Technical Institute and University of Spa & Cosmetology Arts

REGISTERED MEMBERS WITH ATTENDANCE

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FIELD TRIPS

Career Launch

29 in town
5 out of town

Youth Camp 16

Murrayville 9

Total meals served 6,982
Demographics

Total Members: 988
Meals Served: 18,148
Snacks Served: 51,572

100% Free/Reduced Lunch
(All students receive free breakfast & lunch daily in Springfield school district and all students were still receiving free lunch in Jacksonville school district due to COVID relief.)

79% age 12 or younger
781 Members

21% who are teens
207 Members

76% minority (non-white)
751 Members

68% single parent household
672 Members

DEMOGRAPHICS
2nd Annual Community Golf Outing, May 13

144 golfers participated in our second golf outing on a gorgeous spring day. This outing is built for golfers of all levels and designed to be fun with competitive games like teeing off with a mallet, putting with a wiffle ball and putting wearing beer goggles. The golf outing has been so popular plans are to expand the field for next year by offering morning and afternoon flights.

Custom Golf Cart Giveaway

This raffle bookends our two biggest fundraisers. This four passenger golf cart came equipped with custom leather seating, Bluetooth speakers and 14” chrome rims. Chances were sold from May at the golf outing and continued until the winner was drawn at our Great Futures Gala.
Great Futures Gala, Oct. 13

After a two year pause due to COVID restrictions, we were able to host our Great Futures Gala once again on Oct. 13.

400 attendees were treated to a New Orleans style fete that included raffles, silent auction, live auction, live music, award presentations and an abundance of fun.

Musicians from local high school bands came together to treat attendees to a NOLA inspired “2nd Line” featuring our Club Kids.
2022-2023
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