



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS



“We believe students’ lives are enhanced and strengthened by the Club.

This is a mission we indeed embrace, and celebrate each day of our club’s program.”

- *Sheila Wilson Madden*
Site Director | St. Patrick Catholic School



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | *Monique Garcia*



Our mission at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois is to make a lasting, positive impact on the children and teens we serve. By offering educational support, enriching learning opportunities and valuable life experiences, we aim to ensure that every young person who walks through our doors has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Through the drive and determination of our team, we have expanded the number of families we are able to serve every day. But we know that our work is just scratching the surface of the true need in our communities.

That's where you come in. Through your support, we can continue to invest in impactful programming that will help shape a new generation of leaders. Whether it's developing social skills on the basketball court, teaching science and math during Lego League, or sparking interest in a rewarding career path through job exploration programs – your contributions are making a difference in the lives of young people who need it most.

We have a bold vision for the future. By working together, we can make it a reality. Thank you for your support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois now and throughout the year.

CEO'S MESSAGE | *Tiffany Mathis Posey*

At Boys & Girls Club of Central Illinois, we recognize that by providing access to opportunities that many kids may not otherwise have, our Club kids are building hope and self-confidence, which are key ingredients to success. As I look to the future, it is more important than ever to receive your continued support and investment in the Club. We simply cannot fulfill our mission to serve every child, especially those who needs us the most, without **YOU!** Whether through your financial contributions, volunteering, or spreading awareness about the Club, **YOU** play a major role in ensuring our sustainability and success!

The Club is often the first responder to the most pressing needs of young people and our afterschool and summer programs can make all the difference in a child's life trajectory. Despite the many challenges we have faced this year, I still feel an abundance of **HOPE**. Each year in our annual report I write to YOU to express my gratitude for being able to serve this incredible organization as CEO since 2020; this year is no exception. Together, with your unbelievable generosity and contributions we have kept our programs running and the doors to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois open.

Over 11 years ago I began my career with the BGCCIL as a Site Director in Jacksonville. As a Club parent watching three of my four children growing up inside an organization like ours, I have experienced firsthand the positive impact our programs have on our Club kids and families. This is true NOW more than ever. Today, many of our Club members are feeling the effects of heightened community and gun violence, childhood poverty, and struggling with their mental health. In a time where the challenges facing our kids, teens, and families are more complex than ever, the Club is standing at the forefront of this significant work. Our commitment to providing the very best for our youth will remain unchanged.

Our talented and dedicated staff are helping to create resilient, compassionate, and engaged young people who are prepared to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. With **OUR** investment in Club kids coupled with **YOUR** investment in the Club, **WE** invest in the future of our cities, states, and nation. Thank you for your continued commitment to our shared mission, and for recognizing the importance of empowering kids in our community.





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

Springfield

Central Unit | 300 S. 15th St

School Based Units:

Black Hawk Elementary
Dubois Elementary
Fairview Elementary
Franklin Middle School
Grant Middle School
Harvard Park Elementary
Hazel Dell Elementary
Jane Addams Elementary
Matheny-Withro Elementary
McClermand Elementary
Owen Marsh Elementary
Ridgely Elementary
Sandburg Elementary
Springfield Ball Charter
St. Patrick Catholic School

Morgan County

Administrative office

7 Dunlap Court, Jacksonville

School Based Units:

Jacksonville Middle School
Lincoln Elementary
Murrayville Woodson Elementary
North Jacksonville Elementary
South Jacksonville Elementary
Washington Elementary

What membership costs

Membership at the Club is \$40 per member for the entire school year. Actual cost per member/ per school year is \$4,185.

The majority of our costs are covered by grants, however many crucial components of our Club Program are NOT covered by grants therefore we must raise those funds ourselves to maintain the current programming. **A few examples of uncovered expenses include:**

- Transportation- due to our size we must rent buses for field trips and enrichment opportunities
- Clothing or backpacks
- Sports uniforms
- Food (with the exception of parent programming or culinary arts programs)
- Fees associated with non-academic field trips



Programs

Monthly Family Event

All 22 of our Club sites host a monthly Family Engagement Event. These activities can be geared around a holiday party family game night, enrichment offerings, guest speakers and more.

Ballet

Due to a partnership with the Springfield Youth Performance Group (SYPG), our Club kids get the opportunity to study ballet and participate in SPYG productions.



Stewardship

At The Club we teach the value of stewardship and giving back to your community. Individual Club sites organize programs/initiatives that help youth become responsible, caring citizens who understand the importance of giving back and supporting the community.



Members of our Franklin Middle School site tackle fall clean up at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary.



Demographics SY 24/25



Total members
2,133

Percentage of members 12 or younger
(age 4-12) / 86%

Percentage of teen members
14%

Percentage of minority members (non-white)
76%

Percentage from single-parent households
65%

MEALS SERVED



15,256
TOTAL

SNACKS SERVED

89,172

FREE/
REDUCED
LUNCH

100%





Summer Camp

Summer Camp | July & August 2023, June 2024

Number in Career Launch – 47 members

Number in Springfield youth camp – 158 members

Number in Murrayville – 36 members

Summer total meals served – 9,165

Summer total snacks served – 2,885

Field trips

Career launch – 31 (this includes visits to local businesses and LLCC plus out of town trips)

Youth camp – 34 Camp Sertoma, 16 field trips, 9 swimming field trips

Murrayville - 14





2024 Youth of the Year

Finale Thomas

Junior, Southeast High School
BGCCIL Youth Mentor- Central Unit

'Being a club kid has impacted my life in many ways that I couldn't have imagined. The person I've become and the person I am still growing can proudly say that the Boys and Girls Club played a role in my journey.

Working as a Youth mentor has given me a different perspective on life, instead of just smiling at the adults and being thankful I am now one of the young adults the children can smile and look up to. Working at the club has taught me that, I don't work for the money, I don't work for the bragging rights, I don't work just to kill time. I work to have an impact on so many different people, I work so co-workers and others can have an effect on me, I work to be someone the kids can look up to, I work so little I can be able to say I have a future.'

Youth of the Year State Competition

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois hosted the 2024 Illinois Youth of the Year competition in Springfield April 29-30.

Ten clubs from around the state sent their top teens to vie for the title of Illinois Youth of the Year. This accolade acknowledges outstanding Illinois Club members, ages 14-18 years old, for their many accomplishments. The event marks the culmination of extensive preparation and nominations from Club organizations throughout Illinois, offering a unique glimpse into the lives of Illinois' youth who are making a positive impact on their communities through applications, speeches, letters of recommendation and more.

In addition to the contest judging, competitors participated in advocacy activities and legislative visits at the Illinois State Capitol.

The winner of the IL Youth of the Year, Abigail, from BGC Elgin, went on to compete in the Midwest Region contest. The winner of that advanced to the National event where the BGCA 2024 Youth of the Year winner was named.



“Judging the Youth of the Year competition left me in awe of the young people who participated. Each of them, selected by their respective clubs, was a winner. I can’t wait to see what they do next. I know whatever it is will be inspiring!”

**-Julie Casper
BGCIL Donor/Volunteer**

Career Launch

Career Launch is our summer exploration program for teens that helps prepare them for life after high school. They job shadow, learn about trades and career paths, visit colleges and universities, and set practical goals for their future.

To help young people meet the workforce challenges of TOMORROW they need safe places, positive mentorships and world experiences TODAY.

Career launch teens job shadow at Old Navy.





Spirit of America Youth Leadership

Thanks to scholarships from Founding Forward, Club teens were able to attend the Spirit of America Youth Leadership program in Philadelphia this summer. The Spirit of America Youth Leadership program is a transformative four-day residential program that engages high school students in grades 9-12 from across the country with the first principles of freedom.

Through an inspiring four-day program at our Valley Forge campus, students experience mock congressional debates, participate in a free enterprise challenge, visit historical sites, and engage in interactive educational activities. This immersive experience allows students to develop their critical thinking and leadership skills while understanding their responsibilities as citizens. Students live on campus during the program, identifying opportunities for future contributions to society while creating new, lasting friendships and finding common ground as Americans with peers from across the country.

Summer Camp

Our 2024 Summer Camp served 158 youth and 47 teens daily for 10 weeks. Attendees participated in an Olympics-themed camp featuring a creative opening ceremony and days filled with athletic challenges and fun activities.

Additionally, the money raised during the "Fund-a-Future" portion of our 2023 Gala, we were able to purchase six new canoes as well as paddles and life jackets for use at our lake site, Camp Sertoma.



2024 Events

4th Annual Community Golf Outing | May 10, 2024

A full field of golfers turned out for our 4th Annual Golf Outing. We once again had a fun outing with on-course games, raffles and chances while raising money for our Club sites.



Back to the Club Event August 7 & 12, 2024

At the Club we know it is vital that our members start the school year prepped and ready. To that end we hosted two “Back to the Club” events, one in Jacksonville and one in Springfield. With the help of generous community partners, Comcast and Walmart, we were able to fill 400 backpacks with school supplies for our members. In addition, attendees were able to get school physicals, food boxes, haircuts, dental appointments, vaccinations and produce.





Great Futures Gala “Shine Bright Like A Diamond” October 10, 2024

Our premier fundraiser of the year, the Great Futures Gala continues to grow. Over 400 people attended and enjoyed delicious food, complimentary cocktails, fantastic surprise performances, auctions-both live and silent, raffles, games of chance and so much more.

Thanks to the many sponsors, donors and attendees, this event continues to grow each year and is known to be one of the highlights of the local Gala season.

A Day in the Life

The Boys & Girls Club at St. Patrick Catholic School has been an impactful program for ten years. It combines academic rigor with a many tiered Enrichment Hour Program. A pervasive element of positive social action between students and staff with a restorative justice approach to behavioral challenges is integral. This is the foundation on which the program builds.

The three-hour program (3:30 to 6:30 pm, Monday through Thursday) is offered to enable our students to become more self confident, develop leadership skills, work toward greater proficiency in their academic requirements, and to experience a gamut of enrichment and recreational opportunities available to them.

The club experience begins each day with a 15-minute meeting which, for the most part, is student led. Individual comments of gratitude and hope to set the tone for the day given extemporaneously, attitude adjustment activity, mindful breathing, our recited creed to the mission of the club, and the club motto signed in standard American sign language are all given by chosen students on a rotation basis. This is followed by a 15 minute recess to “get the wiggles out” and enjoy cooperative play either outside or inside

From 4:00 to 5:00 pm, Monday and Tuesday, Power Hour is a mix of homework help, basic math facts, and additional math concepts and skills reinforced to coincide with classroom work which is coordinated with the daytime teacher’s lesson plans.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Power Hour is a mix of homework help and language arts concepts and skills. These skills include spelling practice, reading, reading comprehension, independent reading, and writing which are integral to the language arts curriculum which also coincide with their regular classroom work.

After a balanced meal, students regroup for a prestigious array of options during Enrichment Hour.

Enrichment opportunities include:

- Swimming
- Dance - ballet, tap & jazz
- Basketball & cheerleading
- Tennis
- Social and emotional learning
- Recreational sports
- Lego League competition
- Artistic Voyage

These opportunities, rotated throughout the calendar year, are rare in this setting, and are enthusiastically embraced.

The staff and students believe in shared responsibility and a shared vision of working toward an enhanced and impactful club experience for all members.



20 Year Acknowledgements

Congratulations to Sheila Wilson-Madden, Site Director, St. Patrick Catholic School and Emily Bergschneider, BGCCIL Chief Operating Officer, for their 20 years of service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central IL. Thank you for your dedication to, and passion for our program, its members and their families.

CEO Tiffany Mathis Posey recognizes Bergschneider (left) and Wilson-Madden (right) for their years of service during the Great Futures Gala.



BGCCIL Board of Directors

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Makai Trees-Gant, Office of Senate President- IL General Assembly

Josh Vala, CCSI-CCU



Year of Highlights

NOVEMBER

The Club received a donation of 1,700 winter coats for our members from our community partner BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois.



DECEMBER Basketball & Cheer Program



The third year of the new Basketball & Cheer Program began with elementary aged teams from 10 Springfield sites, and one collective teen team, participating in a robust and fun season of friendly competition. We are proud of how quickly this reestablished sports program has grown in participation and skill sets.

APRIL

Alumni Day

The end of the basketball season was celebrated with a tournament at which returning alumni were honored.



MAY

CEO Award

CEO & Executive Director Tiffany Mathis Posey was awarded the esteemed Illinois CEO of the Year Award for her exemplary leadership by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Illinois Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs.

The CEO of the Year Award is presented annually to one Illinois Boys & Girls Club CEO who has demonstrated outstanding vision, innovation, and commitment to excellence in leading their Club organization.



Year of Highlights

MAY

BGCA Alumni Hall of Fame

Andre Iguodala, former BGCCIL Club member and four-time NBA champion, was inducted into the Boys & Girls Club of America Hall of Fame at the National Conference in Atlanta.



JULY

AI Day & Building Dedication

The Club celebrated the official dedication of the Administrative building and placement of a street sign indicating its location on Andre Iguodala Dr. Springfield Mayor, Misty Buscher, presented The Club and Andre's family with a key to the city.





Thank you to our incredible staff.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

“We do a really good job of helping kids understand there are so many ways you can be great- you really can be anything you want.”

– BGCCIL CEO | Tiffany Mathis Posey

STRONG CLUBS=THRIVING KIDS

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*For information regarding events,
enrichment activities or donations contact:*

Deann French

Director of Marketing, Communications
& Resource Development

dfrench@bgccil.org

217.544-0548, ext. 242

430 W. Jefferson Street

Springfield, IL 62702



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to watch our
Club video and
see what we're
doing locally.

