



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF ALLENTOWN**

**2020-2021**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**A CELEBRATION OF OUR 84TH YEAR  
OF PROVIDING GREAT FUTURES FOR KIDS!**



**[WWW.BGCALLENTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.BGCALLENTOWN.ORG)**

# BGCA MISSION

The Boys & Girls Club is more than a place, it is a "movement" to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

By reaching children at an early age and providing safe, positive activities and encouragement, our Club provides a compelling alternative to youth crime, gang membership, drugs, and other negative influences that effect our youth today.

Our Club is a safe and stable place that ensures the physical and emotional safety of young people by promoting their development and instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, influence, and belonging. When this strategy is fully implemented, self-esteem is enhanced and an environment is created which helps our members achieve their full potential.



## HISTORY

The Boys & Girls Club of Allentown was founded in 1937 and was located on Ridge Avenue.

In 2002, the Girls' Club of Allentown merged with the Boys Club of Allentown. With compatible missions, the Board of Directors of both organizations believed that a merger and combined resources would provide many exciting opportunities for our community's youth. The original Girls' Club site at 13th and Turner Streets remained a girls-only facility until 2014.

As the combined Boys & Girls Club of Allentown (BGCA) found its program niche, the youth living in the city of Allentown benefited greatly from the experienced staff and leadership.

While the world continues to change, the issues that our youth and their families face remain the same. All kids in Allentown need access to a safe environment that offers educational and fun activities. We are proud to have served our members continuously though the pandemic!

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Throughout 2020-2021, our world continued to evolve as it kept pace with COVID-19. In the new normal at BGCA, we discovered how to adjust our programs and services in a safer and more socially-distant manner. We even offered a Virtual Learning Center for Allentown School District students who were unable to attend school in person. Our staff worked with a core group of children daily at the Sixth Street Clubhouse from 7:45am to 3:00pm so that they could be successful in school while utilizing our internet and other school-supply resources. These students not only thrived but surpassed their peer groups who were working virtually at home!

As the year progressed, BGCA staff and members learned how to remain flexible, pivot as needed, and improve program delivery. We even began a new Hydroponic Gardening program thanks to Fork Farms and Boys & Girls Club of America. Our members learned how to grow lettuce and basil indoors by utilizing a new hydroponic garden system that cultivated year-round vegetable growth without the use of soil. These vegetables were supplemented with tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, and peppers grown in our small outdoor garden. Not only were our kids proud to grow veggies, but they delighted in sharing these healthy treats with their families.

Going forward into 2022, we would like to express our deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who has supported us. Together, we can help our members increase and maintain their educational, social, emotional, and physical skills by offering programs like Make Your M.A.R.K.™, Triple Play, Money Matters, and Istation. For the latest news, activities, and ways to support BGCA, visit our website at [www.bgcallentown.org](http://www.bgcallentown.org) or any of our social media. On behalf of our dedicated staff, board, and Club kids – thank you! GREAT FUTURES START HERE!

- Deborah Fries-Jackson, CEO



# CLUB STATISTICS

**5**

**Clubhouse  
Locations**

**1,600**

**Registered  
Members**

**54%**

**Female**

**46%**

**Male**

**25%**

**Black**

**8%**

**White**

**19%**

**Multiracial**

**48%**

**Hispanic**

BGCA is committed to ensuring that the youth of our community have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures. Our membership is approximately 1,600 youth, 95% of whom qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches at school. 100% of our members are residents of Lehigh County.

## A CONTINUING GIFT

BGCA had a bright start to 2021 thanks to a major private gift of \$150,000 each year for two years from the Larson Family Foundation.

"We would like to thank Mr. Dale Larson of The Larson Family Foundation for providing an incredible collaborative donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown. This transformational investment is not only for today but will make a tremendous future impact on the youth in Allentown. This donation will enable us to provide additional educational programs to our members and to complete several capital projects. Mr. Larson's spirit of giving is truly inspirational." - Deborah Fries-Jackson, CEO

Larson hoped to encourage others to join his efforts by matching any donation made to the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown's Annual Campaign during the year.

Visit [www.bgcallentown.org](http://www.bgcallentown.org) to donate and learn more about our Club!



# FACILITY UPGRADES



## MICHAELS MAKE SPACE ART ROOM MAKEOVER

Thanks to a generous corporate campaign and donation to BGCA, Michaels equipped us with everything necessary to fully renovate our art space at the Sixth Street Clubhouse. New flooring, fresh paint, new kid-friendly art room furniture, and a fully-stocked art supply closet greatly enhanced our space, making it worthy of our members' creativity and spirit!



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



## TRIPLE PLAY & YOGA

With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting home and school life for many of our members, BGCA's goal was to provide a comprehensive initiative to improve kids' overall physical health and mental wellbeing. Triple Play is our targeted approach for Mind, Body, and Soul. The "Mind" encourages healthy habits that help youth understand the relationship between behaviors and health through nutrition, food choices, and other lifestyle decisions. The "Body" promotes fun with a purpose through physical fitness and skill acquisition in a non-competitive and encouraging recreational environment. The "Soul" element of Triple Play encompasses social and emotional activities that are critical for positive youth development. By targeting each of these key areas of whole-person growth, our members have found resiliency, developed and sustained positive relationships with others, acquired a healthy self-concept, and strengthened belief in their self-worth.

We are especially grateful for our friends at the Pratyush Sinha Foundation for partnering with us for Triple Play activities through the entire pandemic, providing both virtual and in-person yoga sessions and mindfulness trainings for members and staff. This year, we all moved on a regular basis, developed mental relaxation techniques, and expanded our coping skills.



# KEEPING IT FUN 2021



# BOARD LEADERSHIP

## OFFICERS

Joseph Posh/Marc Kuster, Board Chair\*  
Marc Kuster/Paul Barbehenn, Vice President\*  
J. Nathan Hagstrom, Vice President  
\*\*Mary Claire Megargle/Janet Whitehead, Secretary\*  
Debra Mackin, Treasurer  
Diane Scott, Foundation Board Secretary  
  
Deborah Fries-Jackson, Chief Executive Officer

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Barnes  
Michael Blum  
Scott Brantingson  
William Chisholm  
Edward Easterly  
H. Ted Lyons, Jr.  
Erin Pietrulewicz  
Tyrone Reed  
Anthony Rivera\*\*\*  
Stephen Russo  
William Ryan

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Hoffman  
Jean Weiner

\*Officers changed on 5/18/21.

\*\*Board term expired after serving nine years.

\*\*\*Resigned during the year.



# REPORT ON OPERATIONS

## JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Income

Contributions	\$1,672,534.00
United Way	\$96,539.00
Government Grants	\$91,045.00
Paycheck Protection Program Grant	\$169,622.00
Membership Dues	\$45.00
Fundraising Events, Net	\$135,197.00
Program Income	\$1,399.00
Interest and Dividends, Net	\$19,281.00
Realized/Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$328,250.00
Sales to Public	\$129.00
Club and Property Rental	\$30,964.00

**Total Income** \$2,545,005.00

### Expenses

Salaries	\$660,693.00
Taxes/Benefits	\$167,268.00
Operations	\$89,560.00
Utilities	\$53,217.00
Maintenance	\$87,332.00
Insurance	\$41,621.00
Transportation	\$11,783.00
Scholarships	\$2,411.00
Other Expenses	\$15,191.00
Depreciation	\$126,396.00

**Total Expenses** \$1,255,472.00

**Change in Net Assets** \$1,289,533.00



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF ALLENTOWN**

### Management

Program Services - 89%	\$1,119,142
Management - 6%	\$71,856
Fundraising - 5%	\$64,474

*BGCA's Auditor - Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits LLP approved this information.*



United Way of the  
Greater Lehigh Valley

# CLUBHOUSE LOCATIONS



## **SIXTH STREET**

720 N. Sixth Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

**610-432-9323**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

720 N. Sixth Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

**610-432-9944**

## **TURNER STREET**

1302 Turner Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

**610-433-0093**

## **CUMBERLAND GARDENS**

501 E. Susquehanna Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

**610-791-1113**

## **TEEN CENTER**

641 N. Seventh Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

**610-434-4592**

## **LITTLE LEHIGH\***

671 Lawrence Court  
Allentown, PA 18102

**610-437-6162**

**\*Little Lehigh permanently closed by the Allentown Housing Authority in May of 2021**

**Keep in touch!**

  @bgcallentown  /boysandgirlscluballentown  bit.ly/bgcayoutube  bit.ly/bgcallentownemails