



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ALLENTOWN**

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

**Helping children create their
Great Futures for 85 years!**



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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

2021-2022 was all about kindness and positivity at the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown (BGCA). With so much adversity and negativity in the world, we really want to be a positive place for our members. I'm so proud of our Club members and staff who continue to be both outstandingly resilient and incredibly kind. Here are some highlights from our year!

We held our Second Annual Larson Day of Kindness in the summer. The event was inspired by the generosity of the gift BGCA received from the Larson Family Foundation. Each of our Clubhouses picked their own service project to show kindness to others. Some of the service projects included packing backpacks full of supplies for children at the Sixth Street Shelter, writing kind messages in chalk outside the Clubhouse, and making birdfeeders to be kind to the local wildlife. The day ended with a kindness carnival, games, dancing, and snacks to show our Club members that "to share is to care." When they are kind and helpful, good things come their way!

Our Club members were excited to take part in the cross-club All Stars Basketball Tournament for the first time since 2019! Older Club members helped to coach younger teams, friends cheered each other on, and 148 children competed in the bracket-style tournament. The season ended with an awards banquet, and Cumberland Gardens took home the trophy until next year.

Many, many donors, companies, and organizations were kind to BGCA, too! There are far too many to thank here, but we'd like to give a shoutout to Air Products for donating furniture for our clubhouses. Thank you to Astound Broadband for your generous \$35,000 contribution to our DEI initiatives. Thank you to the volunteers from Cedar Crest College's Occupational Therapy Doctorate program for being such wonderful mentors for our members. Thank you to everyone who has helped us serve our members this past year. Great Futures really do begin at BGCA!



Deborah Fries-Jackson, CEO



CLUB STATISTICS

4

**Clubhouse
Locations**

1,100

**Registered
Members**

64%

Female

36%

Male

68%

Hispanic

16%

Black

9%

White

7%

Other

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 1,100 youth, 95% of whom qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches at school. 100% of our members are residents of Lehigh County.

A CELEBRATION & A GENEROUS GIFT

In 2022 BGCA returned to an in-person Fall event. The Great Futures Celebration, presented by Dual Temp Company, was held on September 22nd at Lehigh Country Club.

We honored H. Ted Lyons, Jr. for an incredible *50 years* of board service and heard from Ebony L., BGCA's 2022 Youth of the Year. It was wonderful catching up with so many BGCA supporters and raising funds to benefit our Club kids! At the end of our program, Senator Pat Browne shocked everyone by announcing that BGCA had been awarded a \$250,000 capital grant from the State. Thank you to Senator Pat Browne for securing this transformational funding for BGCA!



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



NEW HVAC SYSTEM AND FLOORING AT SIXTH STREET

Our Sixth Street Clubhouse received two major upgrades in 2022. In partnership with the Larson Family Foundation, Harry C. Trexler Trust, and Geheb Estate, BGCA contracted Dual Temp Company to install a completely new HVAC system! Our upstairs classrooms are now comfortably cool in the summer and warm in the winter, which both our staff and members appreciate. The new system also provides enhanced air quality, ventilation, and circulation, all of which are crucial to keeping everyone healthy.

Thanks to a partnership with the Verna O. Canova Foundation, we were able to replace the flooring in our stairwells and upstairs hallway at the Sixth Street Clubhouse. In addition to being safer, the new flooring features a bright, fun design of lime green and blue triangles.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



POSITIVE ACTION & GARDENING

We've all read the gloomy statistics about the impact the pandemic had on children's mental health, so in 2022 BGCA renewed our commitment to help our members successfully navigate their day to day lives. A program like Positive Action helps children recognize mental challenges like negative self-talk and arms them a set of tools they can use to self-regulate and get back to a more balanced state of mind.

Positive Action is based on the intuitive philosophy that we feel good about ourselves when we do positive actions. The "Thoughts-Actions-Feelings Circle" illustrates how this works in life: our thoughts lead to actions and those actions lead to feelings about ourselves which in turn lead to more thoughts. With Positive Action, our members works through these concepts with both structured lessons and holistic experiences like yoga, mindful art, and gardening!

Our members have continued to build their confidence as hydroponic gardeners. After successfully growing lettuce and basil for a year, they were given permission to start growing strawberries! Strawberries are much more challenging to grow, but our members were rewarded with juicy red berries after a couple months. Our gardeners also had a bountiful harvest from our outdoor garden that included cucumbers (their favorite), peppers, beans, tomatoes, and zucchini. Members harvested a combined 98 pounds of produce from our gardens and which they turned into healthy foods like salad, salsa, cucumber salad, and more.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ALLENTOWN

BOARD LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Marc Kuster, Board Chair

Paul Barbehenn, Vice President

J. Nathan Hagstrom, Vice President

Janet Whitehead, Secretary

****Debra Mackin/Jason Barnes, Treasurer***

Diane Scott, Foundation Board Secretary

Deborah Fries-Jackson, Chief Executive Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Blum

Scott Brantingson***

William Chisholm

Edward Easterly

H. Ted Lyons, Jr.

Mary Claire Megargle

Erin Pietrulewicz

Joseph Posh

Tyrone Reed

Stephen Russo

William Ryan

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Hoffman

Jean Weiner

***Officers changed on May 17, 2022.**

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

*****Resigned during the year.**

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

Income

Contributions	1,035,221.00
United Way	84,660.00
Government Grants	76,780.00
Paycheck Protection Program Grant	-
Membership Dues	990.00
Fundraising Events, Net	121,905.00
Program Income	4,609.00
Interest and Dividends, Net	23,768.00
Realized/Unrealized Gain on Investments	(224,803.00)
Sales to Public	305.00
Club and Property Rental	40,069.00

Total Income **\$1,163,504**

Expenses

Salaries	694,346.00
Taxes/Benefits	181,541.00
Operations	89,990.00
Utilities	55,534.00
Maintenance	74,078.00
Insurance	40,976.00
Transportation	14,486.00
Scholarships	2,657.00
Other Expenses	25,338.00
Depreciation	124,936.00

Total Expenses **\$1,303,882**

Change in Net Assets **-\$140,378**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ALLENTOWN**

Management

Program Services - 90%	\$1,172,074
Management - 5%	\$68,103
Fundraising - 5%	\$63,705

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



CLUBHOUSE LOCATIONS



SIXTH STREET

720 N. Sixth Street
Allentown, PA 18102

610-432-9323

TEEN CENTER

641 N. Seventh Street
Allentown, PA 18102

610-434-4592

TURNER STREET

1302 Turner Street
Allentown, PA 18102

610-433-0093

CUMBERLAND GARDENS

501 E. Susquehanna Street
Allentown, PA 18103

610-791-1113

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

720 N. Sixth Street
Allentown, PA 18102

610-432-9944


Keep in touch!

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