Annual Report
to the Community
2020 and 2021
Letter From Leadership

For over 21 years, Boys & Girls Club of Lake County (BGCLC) has remained steadfast in our mission to inspire all young people to reach their full potential. The last few years have been tumultuous for everyone, but the Club has remained a steady partner providing support and resources in response to the changing needs of the community.

The beginning of 2020 started with an average of 206 youth attending our After School program daily between our stand-alone site, two school-based sites, and teen center. Once the shutdown began, our team began to quickly pivot to virtual programming for our Club members and meal and resource deliveries for our families. We continued to adapt as it became apparent the pandemic closures would last longer than anyone had hoped. We installed a Wi-Fi tower, built partnerships to provide technology and additional resources to our families, and developed plans to reopen our sites safely at limited capacities. By mid-year and still during lockdown, BGCLC opened our Genesee site to 50 youth to provide in-person support with virtual schoolwork, meals, and after school programming. As the pandemic evolved, we increased our capacity as protocols and safety standards advanced.

While 2021 felt closer to our previous “normal,” there were still so many challenges in the lives of young people and their families in Lake County. Academic support offered by the Club became more important than ever after more than 18 months of learning disruption. Kids in our community were deeply impacted socially and academically by the isolation, fear, and loss they experienced during the pandemic, and access to childcare emerged as a critical need to aid the economic comeback after the pandemic. Our Club also experienced a change in leadership in 2021, with our CEO of over 20 years, Cesilie Price, announcing her retirement and Megan McKenna stepping confidently into the role to bring our Club services to the next level for the Lake County community.

At the Club, we see the many challenges our community faces every day, and we felt the compounded impact of the COVID pandemic on our local families. Now that school is back in session and data shows us that the impact of COVID-19 is deep - we are focused on pushing back against the short- and long-term impact of the pandemic on our kids in our community back on track to building their great futures. This two-year report will provide you a review of the years 2020 and 2021 at BGCLC. These two years were long and challenging, but BGCLC as an organization has come out on other side stronger and more deeply connected with our community.

Thank you for being a part of BGCLC.

Megan McKenna
Chief Executive Officer

Our Mission:
To inspire all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Our Program Areas

Academic Success
Healthy Lifestyles
Good Character & Citizenship

The Zicatls continue to learn through the Club’s many programs.

When school closed, the Zicatls participated in the Club’s virtual programming to receive homework help, practice their computer skills, and have fun activities. When their family computer broke, the Club provided a new computer for the family to keep for school work, Club programming, and family needs.

Alejandra and her family feel like they belong at the Club.

In 2020, Alejandra’s family went from four children to six after her uncle passed. Along with a safe space to go during the pandemic so Alejandra could continue working, the Club became her second set of eyes and ears helping her children cope through loss and the mental challenges the pandemic created.

The Club helped the Mullen children feel part of their new community.

The Mullen family of 5 was relocated to the Great Lakes Naval base in June 2021. In addition to safety and support, the Club provides the Mullen children a place to socialize and make friends in their new home. Through BGCLC, the Mullen kids have also explored their new community through the many field trips the Club offers our youth.
2020

509 Youth Served

“I have been so grateful for Club food deliveries. I lost my job when the pandemic hit and these deliveries help me know my daughters will be able to eat while I figure out what to do.”
- 2020 Club parent

Over 55,000 healthy meals delivered

50 youth received in-person e-learning support & after school programming

Over 450 virtual resources for youth & families

More than 1,200 live virtual sessions including programming & mentoring

555 Holiday gifts donated & distributed

1017 log-ins to our free wi-fi tower

509

0 layoffs or furloughs of Club staff

4 5
2021

- 55,910 Healthy Meals delivered
- 41 Field Trips to Local Educational & Cultural Landmarks
- 70 youth received in-person e-learning support & After School programming
- More than 2,100 log-ins to our free wi-fi tower
- 1,462 Hours of Volunteer Engagement
- 572 Holiday gifts donated & distributed
- 2 new Club locations launched
- 409 Youth Served

"The Club is revolutionary. It is my village that allows me to keep my job."
- 2021 Club parent

409 Youth Served
After over 20 years of service, Boys & Girls Club of Lake County’s Chief Executive Officer, Cesilie Price, retired in April 2021. Throughout her tenure, Cesilie lead BGCLC in impacting the lives of over 10,000 Club members. Thank you, Cesilie, for your years of dedication to the youth and families of Lake County.
“Discover has been a long-time partner with Boys & Girls Club of Lake County and is proud to support their after school programs which keeps children off the streets and provides them with a safe learning environment. Through our Boys & Girls Club partnership we have been able to make a difference in the lives of children and in the community.” - Discover Financial Services
Ed Shumaker was a real people person—he loved his family, and he loved helping others. He was a very positive thinker who focused on finding solutions to problems. Ed was passionate about creating safe spaces for children in Waukegan to learn and grow so he, along with his wife, Kitty, founded the Lake Shore Youth Center in Waukegan. In 2000, the Shumakers joined the Boys & Girls Club movement, officially changing the Lake Shore Youth Center to Boys & Girls Club of Lake County. Over two decades, Boys & Girls Club of Lake County has deeply impacted the lives of thousands of young people in Waukegan, North Chicago, and surrounding communities. BGCLC will continue to honor the legacy, generosity, and leadership of Ed through our work with young people through all of life’s challenges. Because of Ed and Kitty, great futures will continue to start here in Lake County.

In Tribute To Edward Shumaker
April 30, 1930 - October 24, 2021

Our Club Locations
*Locations were launched in 2021

Administrative Office
730 S Martin Luther King Jr Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Genesee Site
724 S Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

Oakdale Elementary School
2230 McAree Road
Waukegan, IL 60087

LEARN 6 Charter School
3131 Sheridan Road
Great Lakes, IL 60088

LEARN 9 Charter School*
1200 W Glen Flora Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

LEARN 10 Charter School*
1811 Morrow Avenue
North Chicago, IL 60064

GREAT FUTURES START HERE IN LAKE COUNTY.

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www.bgclc.org