2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Whatever it takes to build Great Futures
Kristian Stipe
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County

Dear supporters and friends of Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County,

It is with great pride that I present to you our 2022 Annual Report. This report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing quality out of school time programming to the youth of our community, and to inspiring and guiding them to develop positive values and reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

At the Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County, our mission is clear: to provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors. Our vision is to see all of our members graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

This report showcases the impact that our programs and initiatives have had on the lives of the young people we serve. We are proud to share with you the successes, challenges, and opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to strive towards our mission and vision.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of our supporters, volunteers, and staff who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Your continued support and commitment to our mission and vision make all the difference in the world.

Together, we can guide youth in building their greatest future.

Sincerely,

Kristian Stipe
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County

OUR MISSION:
To inspire and guide all young people to develop positive values and realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens through quality out-of-school time programming.
In 2022, we implemented a new Sliding Fee Scholarship process that automatically applied scholarships to every registered family based on family size and income, reducing the need for additional scholarship applications and ensuring that almost every family received some level of support. Additional scholarship is also available as needed.

86% of families receive financial assistance.
The Boys & Girls Club team underwent significant growth and restructuring in 2022, with the addition of five new positions, including four Site Coordinators overseeing 2-3 Club sites each, and a Chief Strategy Officer responsible for donor stewardship, special events, and expansion efforts.
Meet Our Coordinators

The Boys & Girls Club’s administrative team welcomed the addition of the Site Coordinator position in 2022, which proved instrumental in facilitating the organization’s growth. These positions played a pivotal role in managing new administrative and office tasks associated with our expansion, while also serving as a liaison between our Club sites and the office staff.

Lee Patterson
Operations Site Coordinator

Lee grew up in a small town in Iowa where he and his family often spent their time fishing and boating. He went to college at the University of South Dakota and earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology and Criminal Justice. He has excitedly left a government job to follow his true passion of helping his community via BGC Missoula.

Kelcee Clermont
Program Site Coordinator

Kelcee, a returning staff at Boys and Girls club, is excited to work with youth again! Since moving from MO to MT in 2018, she has enjoyed the mountains and exploring the outdoors on strange adventures. She loves thrift shopping and hopes to continue exploring the world, but for now, she’s happy to be part of Missoula’s community.

Oscar Umhey
Marketing Site Coordinator

Oscar grew up in Stevensville, MT, exploring the outdoor scenery of the Bitterroot Valley. He graduated from the University of Montana with a major in Media Arts. He enjoys hiking, photography, painting, and martial arts. Oscar gives his time to Boys and Girls Club because he sees the potential in the youth of America and wants to foster a safe and nurturing environment for them to be in.

Aly Nordwall
Strategy Site Coordinator

Meet Aly Nordwall, the new Strategy Site Coordinator. A licensed secondary teacher and national speech and debate association diamond coach, Aly is passionate about helping students achieve their goals in a positive learning environment. In her free time Aly loves spending time with her family, playing board games, and reading scifi/fantasy.
Throughout 2022, the Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County responded to the growing demand for our services by expanding opportunities at all Club sites, including increasing staffing to support higher enrollment, providing extensive training to our staff, and emphasizing retention efforts to ensure consistent adult role models for our Club member. We also opened a dedicated Teen Club for middle and high school students, providing a unique space for them to connect and grow.

In 2022, we proudly unveiled our newest Club space, Teen Club, formerly known as Tech Club upon launch. Teen Club offers an engaging environment for middle and high school students to pursue their passions and interests in a diverse range of projects.

From 3D Printing and videogame design to sewing and robot-building, our Teen Club members have been exploring and creating with boundlessly! Every member has the opportunity to select their own project, allowing them to deep dive into their personal interests and develop new skills week after week.

What’s more, our Club members get to experience Virtual Reality technology, taking part in virtual career explorations, such as performing car mechanics, working in a robotics manufacturing plant, or even trying their hand in the service industry. By offering a hands-on and immersive experience with potential future careers, our members can expand their knowledge and maybe even discover a new career path they had never considered before.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Missoula County aims to raise funds for a wheelchair accessible van to provide crucial transportation services for children with mobility challenges, ensuring their access to life-changing programs. Significant progress was made towards our fundraising goal in 2022, bringing BGCM closer to fulfilling our promise of a more inclusive and accessible Club experience for all.

“I have two kiddos. I have Zoe who’s 11 and Daxton who’s 8. We used Boys & Girls Club from the beginning of last school year all the way through the end. What was useful for us was the access to affordable child care, and knowing my kids had a safe place to be during this period where I needed to be at work and until dad could come pick them up it helped make that transition between our houses nice, where the kids had a place to be, had other adults to interact with, and other kids to be friends with.

Some of the things we struggle with is access to childcare. I think that is difficult enough for any kind of typical family in Missoula, especially single parents who are working with a limited income, but in particular in our circumstances, having a child that is a wheelchair user, there’s not a whole lot of accessible programs in town.”

- Ana Beard, mom of Zoe
PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL RECREATION

Participation in physical recreation is a critical component of our Club’s programming as it helps our members develop valuable social skills, teamwork abilities, and a healthy lifestyle. With a focus on activities that foster collaboration and communication, Club members are provided with opportunities to build meaningful connections with their peers while also engaging in regular exercise.

TOOTLES

Tootles are an integral part of our Club’s recognition program, providing members and staff with a special opportunity to express gratitude and celebrate hard work, helpful actions, positive attitudes, and remarkable accomplishments. These tokens of appreciation have become a beloved tradition, fostering a culture of positivity and encouragement throughout our community.

EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

At Boys & Girls Club, we prioritize emotional wellness programming because it helps our youth build resilience, develop healthy relationships, and navigate challenging situations with confidence. Our emotional wellness program focuses on building self-esteem, decision-making skills, and mindfulness techniques to support our youth’s emotional and mental health.

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TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Participating in activities that focus on building problem-solving and leadership skills, as well as working with their peers on team projects, helps Club members develop important social and emotional skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.
READING & POWER HOUR

Reading is an essential skill that empowers youth to succeed in academics and beyond, which is why promoting literacy and providing access to books & reading time is a critical component of the Boys & Girls Club's mission.

In addition to daily reading, each Club participates in Power Hour, our designated homework help time, where anyone can get help on their homework, and ensure they stay on track at school.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & FIELD TRIPS

Our many wonderful community partners such as spectrUM Discovery Area, Missoula Public Library, Turning the Wheel, Fort Missoula and more, help us to expand our programming and provide unique opportunities for our youth.

These enriching opportunities offer youth learning experiences that broaden their horizons.

ART & STEM

Weekly art and STEM activities are an important component to our programming at the Boys & Girls Club.

They provide opportunities for youth to explore and develop their creativity and problem-solving skills, while also fostering a love for learning in these subjects.
SUMMER CLUB

Through a partnership with the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks program, our Club members had the opportunity to learn all about local ecology and the wonder our local parks hold.

Swimming has become an integral part of our summer program. Club members enjoyed many hours in the water swimming at both Splash Montana and at our beautiful lakes around the state.

Club members had the opportunity to explore and learn through various field trips! From feeding alpacas to visiting spectrUM, and the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas, our members had a blast discovering new places and learning exciting things.

Participating in physical activities at Summer Club promotes healthy lifestyles and helps to build confidence and teamwork skills.

Each week, Club members of all ages had the opportunity to visit the Missoula Public Library and borrow new books to read at the library or take home.

Thank you to our Summer Club site partners and all of our community partners who welcomed our Club members in with open arms this summer!
The Missoula Adventure Program (MAP) provides Club members with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and appreciate nature through outdoor activities and camping experiences. In 2022, we took our Club members on four camping trips, including one unforgettable overnight backpacking trip to Heart & Pearl lakes for a select group of youth leaders. We're proud to say that our MAP program continues to grow, and we remain committed to expanding our offerings to provide more opportunities for Club members to explore the great outdoors and develop important life skills.
We are honored to present our 2022 Youth of the Year, Paisley Stitz! Paisley is always on top of her homework, especially her band homework. It is always a delight to hear her practicing her clarinet in the next room over. She also encourages other Club members to come in and do homework or reading with her. Additionally, Paisley loves to share new, exciting facts that she learned at school that day.

She is always asking staff if our High Yield Activity is an "active game," and is briefly disappointed when the answer happens to be no. She loves dancing, and physical activity.

Paisley has a very strong sense of self reflection, is incredibly honest, and exceptionally polite. She is one of our junior staff members, and on days when she is not feeling her best self around her peers, instead of isolating herself, she volunteers to help the little's staff with facilitation. She is an excellent role model to the younger kids, is unafraid to speak her mind, and always stands up for someone when she sees them being mistreated.

Paisley has a very strong sense of morality and self expectations, to the point where, when she is offered beads to turn in for prizes, she refuses to take them on account of her believing she "shouldn't be rewarded for being kind and respectful, as it should be the base line expectation."

For all of these reasons, Paisley is our 2022 Youth of the Year!
The 2nd Annual Blue Door Banquet in October 2022 was a huge success, with more than 150 supporters and community members joining Boys & Girls Clubs of Missoula County. The event featured a new theme, “Enter a Kids Imagination,” with Alice in Wonderland as the centerpiece. Attendees donned costumes for an unforgettable evening of enchantment and delight.

We raised over $60,000 for our Back-A-Kid Scholarship Fund & Wheelchair Accessible Van!

2022 was the first year to introduce a theme, and encourage fun costumes.

Brady Potts was recognized as our 2022 Club Champion.
In 2022 our community came out in full force to support the Fourth Annual Tutu Trot and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Missoula County in a fun-filled day of celebration and fundraising. Participants donned their most creative tutus and completed a 2.2-mile run/walk at Silver Park, with many families and friends cheering them on. Our fourth annual Tutu Trot helped fundraise for our Back-A-Kid Scholarship Fund, which provided essential support to many deserving youth in our community. We are grateful for the outpouring of support and the opportunity to bring our community together for a fun-filled day while making a meaningful impact on the lives of local youth.
There are so many ways to get involved with the Boys & Girls Club of Missoula County. We would love to have you join our family.

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN CLUB**
Visit bgcmissoula.org to register your child for After-School and/or Summer Club programs.

**VOLUNTEER WITH US**
Visit bgcmissoula.org/volunteer to become a mentor to a child, volunteer at a Club site, or share your passion with our members.

**WORK WITH US**
Visit bgcmissoula.org/job-opportunities to work directly with youth at one of our Club sites during the school year or summer.

**JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Email our CEO at kristian@bgcmissoulapcounty.org to learn more about becoming a leader of the Club.

**BECOME A CLUB CHAMPION**
Make a monetary or in-kind donation to our Club members to help us continue building Great Futures for all of Missoula’s kids.
As of 12/31/22, our Endowment totaled $360,586.

Douglas Lawrence was a 2022 major donor to our Endowment Fund, and we are deeply honored and grateful for his generosity. Doug has supported the Club since its founding in 1997. He served on the board for 18 years and now serves the Club as a mentor to other Board Members. He was our 2021 Club Champion award recipient for his many years of dedication and his vital role in BGCM’s long term success.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022

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Stephen McMahon
Robin Round
Claude Sammourey
Nina Lund
Brady Potts
Katie Holman
Hannah Zuraff
Our mission to empower and inspire youth in Missoula County would not be possible without the generosity of our community. We are deeply grateful to the individuals and foundations who have invested in the future of our youth by supporting our Back-A-Kid Scholarship Fund. Every contribution, no matter the size, directly impacts the lives of our Club members by providing access to our programs and opportunities that they might not have otherwise. We extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who has contributed to our vision of guiding every member towards graduation, good character citizenship, and a healthy lifestyle.

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Thank you for championing our Club members!