

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



February 16, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, our donors, for a magnificent 2015 year at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL). **Together we raised over \$8 million dollars to assist us in accomplishing our mission**, “to inspire and enable youth ages 6-18 to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.” In one letter we can’t capture all the accomplishments but the below list should give you a sampling of our phenomenal year.

★ **Last summer we opened our 6<sup>th</sup> Club site in Ferguson.** The hope was to have 115 summer campers. The goal was exceeded and 250 enrolled. Five months into the school year and we are nearing our membership goal of 400. What is clear and what these numbers indicate is that there was, and is, a need and desire for quality after school and summer time programming. BGCSTL is filling that void and we are exploring how to expand in North County to serve more communities, work with more families and positively impact more children’s lives.



★ This past summer we also received a generous gift from the St. Louis Rams and PHL Inc. The football club and nonprofit organization **refurbished the entire football field at the Herbert Hoover Club** and made it the envy of players and coaches throughout St. Louis. The new field might also have been the magic to propel ten of our teams to the Super Bowl and three won!

★ In February we **opened our second *Be Great: Graduate* site at Normandy High School.** *Be Great* is a comprehensive, dropout prevention and intervention program. It is designed to enhance youth’s engagement with learning by providing consistent support from caring and trusted adults to develop the academic, emotional and social skills necessary to achieve academic success. While the program is fairly new, one statistic jumps out as a strong indicator of success. In December of 2015, prior to enrolling in the program, 40 of the current participants were suspended. A year later, after just 10 months in the program, that number dropped to 10.



★ **All our participation numbers have increased!** Our total youth served increased by 1500 and now stands at **6041** and our membership grew by 880 children. That translates to more children being able to participate on our life-changing programs. These programs strive to help children achieve Academic Success, develop Good Character and Citizenship and live Healthy Lifestyles.



★ If you are on the roads near any of our Clubs you may also see two new forty-four passenger buses. Adequate transportation is another key factor in ensuring kids regularly attend the Club. If kids can't get to the Clubs, they can't participate in the programming. **Today 380 children are now transported to the Clubs in our new buses.**

★ All of our fundraising events were a success but we must highlight the Great Futures Gala. **The Gala was transformed to focus on our kids, their achievements today and their aspirations for tomorrow.** The Youth of the Year (YOY) finalists were the stars of the evening and shared their stories. The culmination of the event was the selection of Shaila Jones as the 2016 YOY winner. Over 400 people were in the room and heard from our kids directly how BGCSTL transformed their lives. (To hear their amazing stories you can visit [www.bgcstl.org](http://www.bgcstl.org).) There is no better testament to our impact and thanks to you all our kids "win."



★ **As always BGCSTL remains a place where children can learn and grow in a safe nurturing and fun environment. Our professionals are talented, dedicated and committed to transforming every child's life.**

Your donations are very important as they allow us to impact the lives of children who need us most. **Thank you** for what you have given in the past and in the future. We are partners in this fulfilling journey of creating Great Futures for our children.

Sincerely,

Flint Fowler PhD  
President

Steve Bloom  
Board Chair