



Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Preliminary Case for Support



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

50 Years of Building
Great Futures
1967-2017

Background

In communities with scarce resources, boys and girls are left to find their own companionship and recreation on the streets. Too many children spend too much time without the caring guidance of adults.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) is the leading youth development provider. With 4,200 locations serving 4 million boys and girls, the Clubs are a prevention and intervention model like no other. Alumni of the Clubs include entertainers Denzel Washington, Jennifer Lopez and Martin Sheen, as well as brave military leaders and public servants such as General Wesley Clark and former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

One of the more effective chartered members of BGCA, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL), has been providing life-saving programs to area youth for nearly 50 years. Here, great futures are started each and every day by enhancing the development of boys and girls and instilling a sense of purpose, competence and vision of their future.



In search of a solution to the problems facing too many metro area children, BGCSTL has been encouraged by civic and community leaders to expand services in neighborhoods with extreme scarcity of quality youth programming. In doing so, BGCSTL is considering a campaign to reach into new communities and double the number of children currently served. To test this expansion, the Club is conducting a feasibility study to gather input from loyal friends, community leaders and supporters.

Through this process the Club will determine how the plan resonates with the community, capacity to raise funds, and who will inspire and lead this effort. Thank you for considering these plans, offering your perspective, and helping BGCSTL create the next generation to lead our region with compassion and confidence.





Today's Reality

America's kids are in crisis. For the first time in decades, today's generation is expected to be worse off than their parents. Low educational achievement, obesity and other health challenges, recreational drug use and alcoholism, lack of civility, as well as violence in our streets put too many futures at risk.

Many of these problems are compounded by poverty, which is considered the biggest obstacle facing our kids today.¹ The United States – touted as the best country in the world – ranks 28th of 29 countries for children living in poverty.



One out of every five children is living below the federal poverty line, and one out of two is either poor or near poor.

Racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to live in poverty than their white peers, creating educational, housing and economic inequalities that appear insurmountable. This disparity is especially evident in the St. Louis region where the racial divide is real and long-standing, resulting in disturbing effects on school quality, access to services and health care, decent jobs, crime and human rights. Even in the 21st century, zip codes still impact destiny.

Recent events in Ferguson brought racial and economic disparity in our region to the international stage. The

Department of Justice nationally and the Ferguson Commission locally undertook extensive studies to identify root causes and make recommendations. Their findings opened the eyes of the world to the harsh realities facing low income youth and their families simply based on skin color and where they reside. Citizens of all backgrounds have a moral obligation to vehemently challenge the practices and policies that create and perpetuate a lower standard of living for so many.



We don't have to see eye to eye to walk arm in arm."

- Ferguson Commission Co-Chairs



¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/05/14/the-most-important-problem-facing-american-children-today>



Preparing a Future Citizenry



Boys & Girls Clubs of America consistently ranks in the top 10 charities in the U.S. and was ranked as the nation's top youth organization for the 19th consecutive year by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. For nearly five decades, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) has been a proven source of prevention and intervention through productive, meaningful and enriching activities in the St. Louis City and County areas. Kids from six years old to 18 develop capacities they need to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

The riskiest time of day for children and youth isn't the middle of the night, it's right after school. Juvenile violence peaks during the hours of 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. In cities across the country, 11.3 million children are left unattended after school, every day, increasing their involvement in delinquent behaviors like drug, alcohol and sexual experimentation. Low-income communities aren't just food deserts, but opportunity deserts as well, posing enormous barriers to kids being safe and productive during these hours.²

BGCSTL's flagship Club, the Herbert Hoover Club,

started as one site and has accelerated to seven under the leadership of President Flint Flower, PhD, who has devoted his entire career to youth development. Under his steady guidance over these past 20 years, the Clubs are strategically located where the need is greatest, in both free-standing spaces and public schools.

Today, 6,500 kids, including 4,500 registered Club members, access enrichment programs during those critical after school and summer hours. BGCSTL also operates the BE GREAT: Graduate program that keeps students on track to graduate and be prepared for college, trade school, military service or full-time employment. In addition, a literacy-based mentoring program, Mentor St. Louis, is available in five elementary schools.

Club members come from homes in more than 90 zip codes to participate in sports and fitness, academic enhancement, the arts, career exploration, leadership development, and healthy lifestyle programs. Every child who comes through the doors is treasured, respected and supported by caring adults to grasp a new reality that success is within their reach.



I want to change the way youth view life. I want to make sure they know their lives matter and that we can change the world."

- Shaila Jones, 2016 Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year



² http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue_briefs/issue_KeepingKidsSafe_65.pdf

Investing in children is one of the most important and effective decisions a society can make. It's practical, comes at a modest cost, benefits humanity and the economy. BGCSTL is a trusted partner in youth development. Its stellar reputation has the backing of a national brand that is second to none. Club programs and services are laser-focused on three key areas:

1. Academic Success
2. Good Character and Citizenship
3. Healthy Lifestyles

The impact is immediate and enduring. For example, one year after a club opened in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood, crime decreased by 35%. Here are other dramatic and reliable outcomes:



Academic Success

- 99% of Club members expect to complete high school, figures almost unheard of in schools known as “drop out factories” where only half the students graduate
- 96% earn A’s, B’s, and C’s in class
- 90% intend to pursue post-secondary education

Good Character and Citizenship

- Almost 80% of our teens who are 2+ year members volunteer – an excellent precursor for building a strong work ethic
- The BE GREAT: GRADUATE program included 309 students at Normandy and Roosevelt High Schools in 2015, helping those identified as most likely to drop out by providing consistent guidance, supports, and modeling appropriate behavior. In just one year, there has been a 30% decrease in out of school suspensions and an increase of 25% more students progressing on time to the next grade level

Healthy Choices

- 94% of our members engage in physical activity; 57% participate 5+ days a week
- 95% abstain from smoking cigarettes
- 85% abstain from drinking alcohol



More Kids, Greater Impact

BGCSTL has been in conversations with leaders in unserved and underserved communities seeking solutions for their children. In fact, BGCSTL has been encouraged by the United Way, the Ferguson Commission, the Ferguson-Florissant School District and the Regional Business Council to take the lead in this effort. One solution involves a significant expansion of BGCSTL's trusted programming to reach neighborhoods with alarming shortages of quality youth services. The goal is to create and implement a comprehensive prevention and intervention plan for North County youth.

The plan has **three primary initiatives** that will impact twice the number of children the agency serves today. Kids will experience outcomes that are a hallmark of BGCSTL programs:

- Significant increases in educational attainment, including staying on-track to graduate
- Resilience to abstain from gangs, drugs and crime
- Asset building and lifeskills development
- Embracing purpose and future direction

1. Add three new school-based sites strategically located to fill existing gaps in after-school opportunities for youth:

- Highland Elementary in the Riverview Gardens School District
- Normandy School District
- Jennings School District

With partial funding recently announced from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers' allocation, the Highland Elementary Club site opened this 2016-17 academic year. The new site will join the existing school sites, which include Ferguson Middle, Southeast Middle and Grannemann Elementary.

2. Build a free standing 30,000 square foot Teen Center. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America has named 2016 the *Year of the Teen* to draw attention to this often-overlooked population. Working with teenagers can be challenging but research indicates that teens can thrive in spaces structured around responsibility, belonging, and leadership modeling. Caring, trained adults are necessary to help teens build their assets and reduce delinquency.

Teens want a space that provides respite from the pressures of school, family responsibilities or the danger of the streets. A place where they can have positive interactions with peers, meet new friends and take advantage of informal relationships with adults who assist them in their area of interest. The Club works with teens as they learn to think critically, use their voice in healthy ways, and discover who they are and how their purpose intersects with their world. It is through this work that hope thrives. Teens want hope. Boys & Girls Clubs offer hope.

The Center will set new standards for teens in the region and will be accessible to the Ferguson-Florissant, Riverview Gardens, Jennings, and Normandy school districts. Transportation is a critical feature of this initiative.

“Herbert Hoover was my safe haven, a place to go and be surrounded by encouraging and supportive staff. The ideals of the Club were instilled in me and molded me to be the positive person that I am. I use those values in my daily life and career.”

- Jamaal Phillips, Programmer/Analyst, Tyson Foods



3. Grow the endowment to sustain the expanded and enhanced programs. Doubling the number of children served calls for additional and more diverse streams of funding. Endowed or “stability” funds generate annual income for technology, staff education, the new school-based centers, scholarships, and college and career readiness. They will also provide reliable resources to supplement annual funding. The Club can move forward with confidence with the endowment generating ongoing support for these priorities.



The Great Futures Campaign

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is at an exciting juncture as it reaches 50 years of service to the community in 2017. New facilities, additional trained and caring staff, and greater financial stability will create a powerful presence in schools and neighborhoods that have long suffered from neglect and disinvestment.

To achieve these visionary goals and serve greater numbers of children and teens in critical areas calls for a total investment of \$29.8 million.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Philanthropic Resources</u>
Three New School-Based Sites Capital priorities and five years' operating costs	\$ 4.1 million
Teen Center Capital resources and three years' operating costs	\$ 13.7 million
Endowment Stability funds: Capital/technology, professional excellence & retention, program development, scholarships, college/career readiness	\$ 8.0 million
Sustaining Capital (Existing Sites) Ongoing facility improvements	\$ 2.5 million
Administrative and Scaling Up Expenses Internal capacity building	\$ 1.5 million
TOTAL	\$ 29.8 million
Early gifts secured	(\$ 4.3 million)
Remaining philanthropy needed	\$ 25.5 million

Annual funding is not included in this total and will continue to be secured through signature events, annual campaigns, tax credit programs, Club membership fees and other incentives. BGCSTL has had a consistent history of expanding services and sites, with the community stepping up at every turn and providing greater resources to meet the need.

By 2021 – just five short years away – imagine 13,000 youth in our region – every day - having access to quality after-school and summer programming. Nearly 9,000 Club members will reap the full benefits, growing up healthy and educated, with solid plans for the future. Serving a critical mass through proven programs and positive, consistent experiences will move the needle in the right direction and usher in a new reality. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is at the table, along with thousands of boys and girls who hunger for opportunity. Please join BGCSTL in its visionary efforts. Thank you.



“ Being a Club member saved my life. I was able to stay off the streets and never give up on my dreams.”

- Te'Ara Barnum, Elementary School Teacher



Mission

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) is to inspire and enable youth ages 6 to 18 to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For nearly 50 years, BGCSTL has been providing after-school, teen, sports and summer programs to youth in the St. Louis area while also providing a safe place for them to learn and grow. The Clubs now serve St. Louis youth at seven locations (Adams Park Club, Ferguson Middle School Club, Grannemann Elementary School Club, Herbert Hoover Club, O'Fallon Park Club, Hazelwood Southeast Middle School Club and Riverview Gardens Club) and within several other schools (including Normandy High School and Roosevelt High School) and through our Mentor St. Louis Program.



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