

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Proud of Our Resilience

Stronger Than Ever.





A Note from Our President

Over the last two years, the world has done its best to maintain some semblance of normalcy in the face of COVID-19. For school-aged children, the virus wasn't the only threat. Students have dealt with loss of learning, structure, and socialization, all so critical to their wellbeing.

When the pandemic was at its height back in 2020, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City effectively pivoted to provide the support necessary for our kids and community by helping facilitate virtual learning in our Clubs, free meal pickups/deliveries, as well as staying in regular contact with our families to provide emotional aid and critical information.

In 2021, as pandemic restrictions began to relax, our singular focus turned to identifying ways to restore the structure, security, and continuity our kids desperately needed. And once again, we rose to the challenge. We created wonderful new partnerships to provide our kids with even more support, and we continued to innovate new programs, and also relaunch those that had to be tabled during the height of the shutdown.

We're proud to have been able to deliver the support our members and our community required throughout 2021 as we all worked to get back to normal. Undoubtedly the pandemic has impacted our lives. But we are confident we will continue to be resilient and dedicated to making sure our kids don't simply survive, they thrive!

Dr. Dred Scott, President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City

Our goal has always been to keep 100% of our members on track for high school graduation with post-secondary plans in place. BGCGKC has achieved this extraordinary goal for the last five consecutive years!

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City

Next year in 2022, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City will mark 110 years of providing advocacy, education, and a safe space for boys and girls, ages 5 – 18. Through the patient support of caring staff, as well as engagement in programming that encourages them to rise up and succeed in their educational and life pursuits, we lift them up and nurture their self-esteem, values, and skills. Our members go on to accomplish great things because we help them believe in themselves and their abilities.

Our Whole Child Approach:

The Whole Child organizational approach we have embraced enables us to support and supplement educational enrichment activities while also building life skills and core competencies that our members aren't getting within traditional youth development frameworks. We believe the same methodologies that make for effective academic teaching and training can also be effectively applied to youth social and personal development areas.

We see BGCGKC as an important extension of the school structure in developing confident, secure, focused youth. To that end, we are open when school is closed, including most holidays, and during the summer months, to make sure kids have a safe place to spend their time, structured activities to keep their minds and bodies occupied, and caring adults to provide guidance and serve as role models.

In response to the pandemic's impact on in person learning in school, our Clubs were open during the school day for virtual learning academic support. We expanded our footprint to provide permanent Club programming and additional academic support in 2 community centers – Hillcrest Community Center and Kansas City North Community Center.



BGCGKC by the Numbers:

10 Reasons That We Stand Apart from Other Youth Organizations

- 1. Physical Presence:** We are the only dedicated youth-development organization in Kansas City with bricks and mortar facilities in neighborhoods across the metro area where we can have the greatest positive impact.
- 2. Member Diversity:** Our programs serve a diverse youth population.
- 3. Proximity to Need:** We establish our Clubs and school-based programs in locations that reach kids where they live and learn.
- 4. Care-Driven:** Our programs are directed by a consistent, caring, highly trained staff.
- 5. Proven Concept:** Our Club programming has a track record of positively impacting graduation rates, attendance rates, as well as healthy emotional and mental development.
- 6. Affordable:** Our low membership fees make our programs highly accessible to families in the communities we serve.
- 7. Proactive & Inclusive:** Our Clubs don't sit back and wait for interest. We actively reach out and welcome in families from the communities we serve.
- 8. Accessible:** We are open on most school out days to fill learning, structure, and socialization gaps.
- 9. Accommodating:** We offer before and after school programming, as well as summer and school out day programming to meet parent needs.
- 10. Consistent:** For nearly 110 years, we have served Kansas City communities and families.

Our Strategic Priorities Plan Completed Its Final Phase

In 2021, we concluded the final phase of a 3-Year Plan and achieved all of the successes we aimed for including:

Priority 1: Elevate our staff – We were proud to raise the base rate of pay to \$15/hour to demonstrate our commitment to the people who live the BGCGKC mission every day.

Priority 2: Finance – We were able to successfully institute a donation policy, reserve policy, bid frequency policy, and a facilities plan in 2021.

Priority 3: Continue to make strategic growth a reality – Despite the challenges of a continuing pandemic, we grew in several important ways for our kids and communities:

We opened three new School-Based sites:

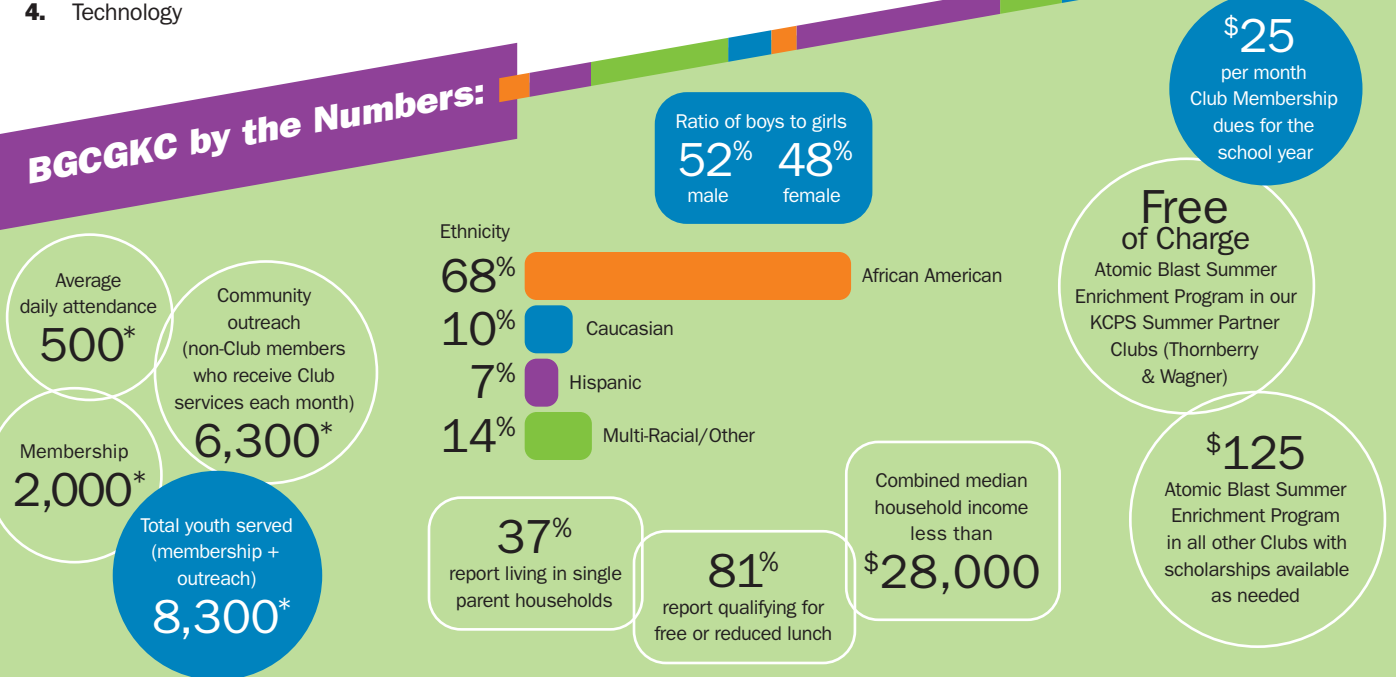
- Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School
- Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy Charter School
- Smith Hale Middle School

We launched three new Partnership sites:

- Synergy Services' Youth Resiliency Center
- Hillcrest Community Center
- Kansas City North Community Center

Our Programs Continued to Focus on Four Core Areas of Development

- 1.** Education & Career Development including the Arts
- 2.** Healthy Lifestyles including Sports
- 3.** Public Speaking & Leadership
- 4.** Technology



*Approximate. COVID-19 mitigation/social distancing had an impact on capacity



A Year Distinguished by New Partnerships, Expansion & Growth

Synergy Services' Youth Resiliency Center – In 2021, the Clubs expanded in the Northland through a partnership with Synergy Services to bring teen programming to Synergy's Youth Resiliency Center. The YRC assists and lifts up runaway, homeless, vulnerable residential and/or neighborhood youth through a variety of activities and services. The partnership allows BGCGKC to offer daily programming to up to 60 teen members and also provide all Club members with direct access to Synergy Services' therapists. It also complements our other exciting partnership with Kansas City Parks and Recreation, less than a mile away. The new teen site at YRC, coupled with our K-6 location at the Kansas City North Community Center, we now serve the Northland across all age groups.

Smith Hale Middle School – The new dedicated Club space located in the school will serve students in grades 6 through 8 from the Hickman Mills School District.

Olathe Unit – The Center of Grace capital campaign provided the funding to build an 8,000 sq. ft. addition to our Olathe Unit. The increase in space that will allow us to serve nearly 150 children. BGCGKC is the primary occupant of the facility which will help enhance programming.

Tween Center at the J&D Wagner Unit – In 2021, the former teen center space at the J&D Wagner Unit was converted into a Tween Center with capacity for up to 50 kids ages 10 – 12. The transformation was made possible thanks to a generous gift from Summit Homes.

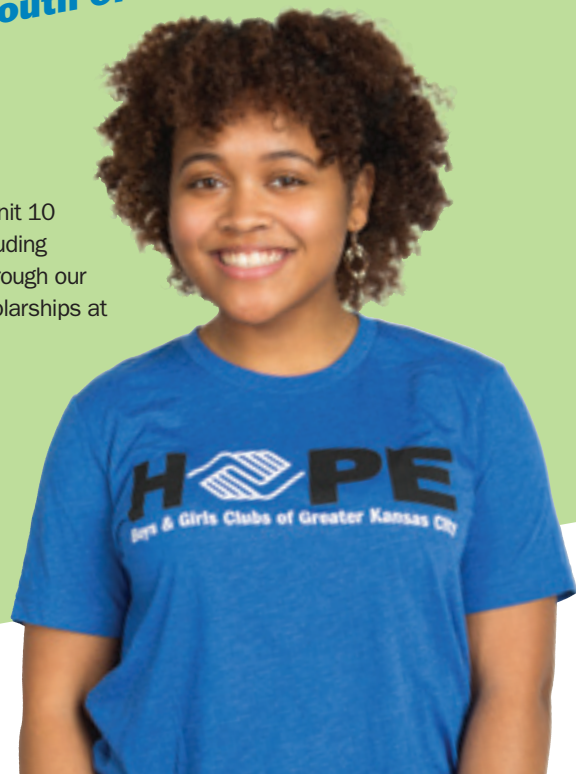
Meet Aleisa Washington

2021 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City Youth of the Year

Aleisa, age 16, found her true north when she became a Club member at our Hawthorne Unit 10 years ago. The Van Horn High School sophomore bloomed through BGCGKC programs including Torch Club, Keystone Club, and SMARTGirls. Aleisa has assumed many leadership roles through our Youth of the Year program and has served as Club Mayor. She has also been awarded scholarships at the Club for her commitment to academic excellence.

"The Clubs gave me an opportunity to change my path," Aleisa said, "and help define it." One way she's done that is to become a strong and vocal proponent of social justice in her community, helping to enact change. In fall 2021, she took part in Fox 4 KC's *Be Heard: A Conversation About Race* in Kansas City townhall.

Aleisa maintains a 3.7 GPA and is active in debate, track & field, and basketball. Upon graduation, Aleisa plans to attend Howard University, a designated Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Washington DC. Aligning with her interest in advocacy and social justice, she hopes to pursue a career in civil rights law.



COVID-19 Recovery: We Showed Our Commitment in Every Way

Our recovery efforts would not have been possible if our staff had not received early access to COVID-19 vaccines. The protection enabled us to safely reopen our Clubs in 2021 and restart the programs that mean so much to our kids.

We Brought Back #WeOwnFriday Teen Nights – 380 unique teens attended #WeOwnFriday during Summer '21.

#WEOWNFRIDAY

We Welcomed Back Youth Sports

Flag Football – Despite the pandemic, we were able to run the delayed 2020 season in May, and the entire 2021 season in September as scheduled. In May we welcomed 19 teams and 200 players. In September, 100 players and 11 teams participated. Games were played on Saturdays at Central Park for five consecutive weeks prior to the season-ending post-season tournament on October 23rd. The Kansas City Chiefs were the presenting sponsor of the league, and thanks to their generous support, all registration fees were waived for participants.

RBI – Our season began in June with 62 teams (29 Club teams + 33 partner teams from communities including Grain Valley, Queen City, and Fort Osage). Over the season, the teams played 331 games. This season, four young women were on the High School Division teams and four of our graduating seniors received college baseball scholarships.

Swimming – In partnership with Shikha Memorial Foundation and Empire Swim Club, kids took part in a summer session and a fall session of swimming lessons and water safety. 30 to 40 children took part in each session.



Meet Makayla Marshall

2021 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and Missouri State Junior Youth of the Year

Makayla is a seventh grader at Nowlin Middle School and has been a member of the Nowlin school site since August 2019. At the Club, she enjoys participating in BGCGKC programs including STEM, cooking, and SMARTGirls. She loves mentoring her peers, especially by sharing her passion for science and assisting with the STEM program.

"The Club has become a safe place for students like me to go to, and we have truly created our own family," Makayla shared.

This energetic and committed teen takes pride in being a leader and making a difference in the world around her, which includes serving as president of Torch Club, a youth leadership council dedicated to community service. Makayla aspires to attend Harvard University and work at NASA as a chemical engineer.



There Was No Stopping Us from Reaching Academic Heights

As we began to recover from the upheavals of the pandemic in 2021, we were able to realize several exciting achievements thanks to our committed staff, our dedicated kids, and the support of our families and the community.

Diplomas for All – For the past five consecutive years, 100% of our active high school senior members graduated with post-secondary plans.

Atomic Blast Summer Enrichment Program Powered by Honeywell – Successful summer educational programs were more important in 2021 than ever before. Participants in Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City's Atomic Blast program (ages 5 – 12) engaged in fun, STEM focused educational activities facilitated by certified teachers and Youth Development Professionals. The program also included a daily breakfast, lunch and snack, field trips, swimming, making new friends, and more. Our teen members (ages 13 – 18) enjoyed their own age-appropriate activities offered through the Clubs' teen program. This program is geared toward helping youth reach the goal of high school graduation with post-secondary plans in place.



Real World Exposure through Internships – Thanks to partnerships with CBIZ/MHM and BKD, teens from our Thornberry Unit had paid internships affording job shadowing opportunities such as observing how live customer service calls were handled by staff, sitting in on board meetings, assisting the IT department with wiring work, and assisting with a variety of office tasks. Additionally, 50 teens representing all 6 Units engaged in career exploration (interview prep, store tours, job description reviews) with Old Navy. The experience also included an option for seasonal employment.

We Kept Up Our COVID-19 Protocols

This year saw a continuation of many pandemic protocols along with the easing of certain capacity restrictions. We successfully coupled continued safety measures with lowered social distancing requirements in our Clubs. As a result, we were able to increase the number of members served in person and make the most of every day with our kids.

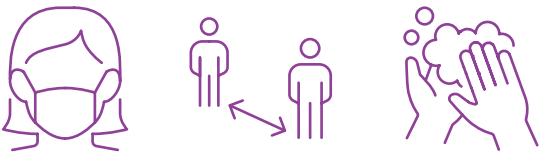
Thanks to a partnership with Kansas City Parks & Recreation, along with virtual learning centers through all of our Clubs, our staff was able to make sure kids had what they needed to navigate their virtual classes and to help them stay on track with their lessons.

We were able to:

- ✓ Increase our spring and fall capacity due to easing of COVID-19 mandates
- ✓ Nearly double capacity in our 6 Unit sites (when 6' social distancing decreased to 3')
- ✓ Return to executing regular field trips

COVID-19 protocols included:

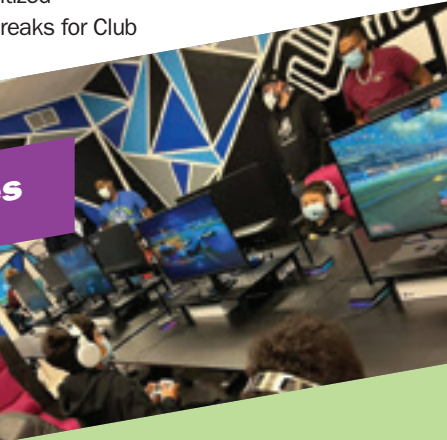
- Protective Gear – Staff & members wore protective masks in accordance with county mandates
- Temperature Checks – Temperature checks for all staff and youth
- Ongoing Cleaning/Disinfecting – Classrooms and common spaces regularly cleaned and sanitized
- Hygiene – Regular handwashing breaks for Club staff and youth



We Introduced Two Innovative New Learning Opportunities

Youth Podcasting Program – Our kids now have the chance to learn the art of creating podcasts and how to share them across the Internet's numerous streaming services. Under the tutelage of Member Engagement & Special Programs Coordinator, Jamel Malone, participants decide which topics to cover, and get hands-on experience at podcasting behind the mic, preparing materials, editing, and producing. Thanks to fully equipped recording studios in four of our Clubs, there is plenty of opportunity to rotate in kids wishing to get involved.

esports Lounge @ Breidenthal – Esports, a unique form of professional competition using video games, has created a wealth of career opportunities in management, programming, and promotion, as well as for skilled esports players. In partnership with KC Pioneers, one of the largest esports outfits in Kansas City, the new esports Lounge provides an opportunity for kids to work with state-of-the-art gaming consoles and learn how to set up their own esports programs. The experience offers great opportunities to tie in STEM-related learning, and a growing number of colleges now offer esports scholarships.

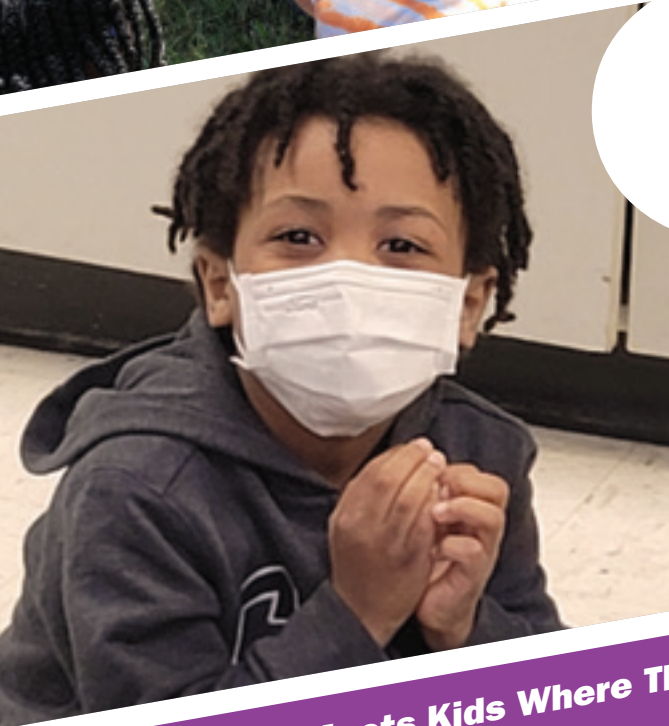


The Applause Returned with Two Favorite Fundraisers

Kids Night Out with Maren Morris – We were thrilled to have over 1200 guests join us for the 25th anniversary of Kids Night Out on August 13th. The event, which featured a cocktail party, silent auction, dinner, and a live auction, was highlighted by a wonderful performance from country music star, Maren Morris. More than \$2.4M was raised thanks to our generous patrons – an amount that bested last year's total of \$2M. Special thanks to our presenting sponsors: Summit Homes and Burns & McDonnell.

4th Annual Tour de Fork – This foodie favorite drives significant impact on our Olathe youth and their academic achievement, social development, and post-secondary readiness, so we were thrilled to welcome more than 200 in-person guests to this year's event. With COVID-friendly protocols in place, everyone partied safely, enjoying fare from around the world from a lineup of KC's best food trucks, as well as culinary demonstrations from local celebrity chefs, Cody Hogan (Lidia's Kansas City) and Kristin Brumm (The Pie Goddess). The evening's Silent and Live Auctions raised over \$183,000! Special thanks to our presenting sponsors: Honeywell and McCownGordon Construction.





BGCGKC Meets Kids Where They Live & Learn 6 Club Units, 3 School Sites, and 3 Partnership Sites



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

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Kansas City, MO 64130

816-361-3600
www.helpkckids.org



A United Way Agency

Unit Locations:

Breidenthal Unit

1240 Troup Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66102

Hawthorne Unit

16995 Dover Lane
Independence, MO 64056

Independence Unit

315 South Leslie Avenue
Independence, MO 64050

J&D Wagner Unit

2405 Elmwood Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64127

Olathe Unit

520 South Harrison Street
Olathe, KS 66061

Thornberry Unit

3831 East 43rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64130

School Locations:

Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School

2800 South Hardy Avenue
Independence, MO 64052

**Lee A. Tolbert Community
Academy Charter School**
3400 Paseo Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64109

Smith Hale Middle School

9010A Old Santa Fe Road
Kansas City, MO 64138

Partnership Sites:

Synergy Services' Youth Resiliency Center

2001 NE Parvin Road
Kansas City, MO 64116

Hillcrest

Community Center
10401 Hillcrest Road
Kansas City, MO 64134

Kansas City North Community Center

3930 Northeast Antioch Road
Kansas City, MO 64117