#WeAreDorchester
2020 Annual Report
For nearly 50 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD), originally established as the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys Club in 1974, has served this community and its children. BGCD has a rich history of guiding children towards brighter futures and positively impacting the full community. Today, our members have access to over 200 programs, for an annual membership fee of $5. Our professional youth development staff connect with our members with fun, engaging activities and programs that become life-affirming experiences.

MISSION STATEMENT
Our mission at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is to inspire and enable all young people, from diverse circumstances, to realize their full potential by providing opportunities for personal growth to become contributing, caring and responsible members of the community.

VISION
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester will be the premier provider of hope and opportunity to the youth of our community by providing high-quality services through well-planned, sustainable growth.

VALUES
RESPECT • INTEGRITY • INSPIRATION

“We decided to start helping kids at a young age and make the right decisions and prevent them from going down the wrong path. These kids are going to become our future. They are so smart, so determined, so focused and so grateful for the opportunity.”

Mark Wahlberg, alum

DEAR BGCD FAMILY,

Reflecting back on fiscal year 2020, no one could have predicted the chaos rooted in COVID-19. Yet, through it all, our young people and their perseverance inspired our whole Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester community to do more, be more, and give more.

For almost 50 years BGCD has been here for thousands of Dorchester families, and now we are welcoming many third and fourth generation members, staff and supporters into our Club family. We are humbled by this legacy, and when we had to close our doors last March, it inspired our staff to innovate and recalibrate the way we serve today’s Dorchester youth. Despite stay at home orders, our young people remained connected to their role models and mentors, and the Club remained true to its mission - to help young people realize their full potential.

BGCD continues to innovate so that we may continue to meet Dorchester’s evolving needs and keep children safe, provide hope and opportunity, and strong connections to caring, professional staff. The past several months has given us all a reason to pause and reflect. As we consider the big take-away from this year, it that our children are the problem-solvers, the do-ers, the peace-makers, and the communicators. Thank you for being an essential player in their futures.

Wishing your family and you good health, peace and prosperity,

Bob Scannell
President & CEO

Lee Michael Kennedy
Chair, Board of Directors
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester stands in solidarity with others in Boston and all across this country as we express outrage for the brutal murder of George Floyd. His death along with the tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor have pulled back the veil on systemic racism in this country. We believe it is our moral duty to help dismantle the belief systems that led to their deaths, and countless others before them. For far too long, Black, Brown and Indigenous people have been oppressed, suffered and died because of the color of their skin. These losses and injustices are a source of great pain, anger, despair, frustration and sorrow for our Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester community, and we mourn each passing.

Over the past few months our staff has spent a lot of time talking about how to best guide our young people through these tumultuous times. We've spent even more time listening, learning and seeking expert counsel to inform the difficult conversations we know we must have to heal our children, Dorchester, Boston, America and our world. Dorchester is home to more than 50 races and ethnicities, and our Club is a richly diverse anchor that sits in the middle of this community. Inside our three clubhouses, the safety, health and well-being our young people has always been our priority. Recent events in our country and our city have been traumatic for our young people, and we are compelled to do more.

Shaping tomorrow’s leaders is what we do best. Since opening our doors in 1974, BGCD has fostered an environment of acceptance, tolerance, respect, and inclusion. Age appropriate, open, honest conversations about race are necessary, and BGCD is committed to giving young people the building blocks they need to be curious, form their opinions, use their voice to affect positive change and be heard. All over the country, and here in Dorchester, our young people are peacefully leading the way toward healing racial injustices and beyond the inequities that have prevented people of color from achieving their full potential.

#WeAreDorchester
Our Club is an environment that is designed to inspire members reach their full potential. We know, thanks to Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s research, that Club members thrive when each of the six elements are woven into the Club’s environment.

**MEASURABLE POSITIVE OUTCOMES**

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS**
Members gain skills, knowledge, & training they need to pursue their goals & interests

**CHARACTER & COMMUNITY**
Members develop healthy relationships with peers & adults, while building character to be role models & leaders in the community

**HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**
Members learn to make and model healthy, physical, social & emotional choices

Due to COVID-19, all statistics in 2020 Annual Report are from the 2019 National Youth Outcomes Initiative.
“I am so grateful for all the programming the Club has done & allowed us to be a part of because of our participation in the Club's Family Engagement Program. My kids were so excited to log on every day to learn. Thank you to you & your staff for all that you do for the kids and the community.”

- BGCD Parent
BGCD BY THE NUMBERS

4,000+ youth served
3,894 registered members, including 506 teens
269 youth served through community outreach

Gender:
- Female 52%
- Male 48%

60% 6 to 13
21% 14 to 18
19% 19 to 25
6% 26 to 30

About Our Members:

Ethnicity:
- African American
- White
- Hispanic

Ages:
- 36%
- 21%
- 17%
- 12%
- 10%
- 10%
- 0%
- 6%
- 5%

On a typical day:
- 522 adult staff and volunteers
- 250 kids and teens enter the doors of BGCD
- 80 adult professional staff
- 400 volunteers
- 42 board members
Congratulations to Club volunteer, Kristen Daly, on your Boys & Girls Clubs of America Honor Award for Leadership and Service. The Who Am I program you created for BGCD teens has made an important contribution to the BGCD community and a lasting impression on BGCD’s young leaders. You are so worthy of this national recognition.

Who Am I is all about the power of storytelling: it breaks down barriers, shows us each other’s humanity, teaches other points of view, and inspires compassion by learning from another person’s experience. It also shapes, strengthens and challenges ideas, values and opinions.

Through this ten-week program, Kristen and Club teens develop a lasting bond, grounded in safety, respect, acceptance and trust. From here, each teen explores their personal story and digs deep to find their strengths, ambitions and dreams. Teens also examine their weaknesses and relationships. At the beginning of the program, the teens ease into vulnerability privately, then learn to craft their personal narrative and get comfortable speaking publicly about their life with other people. Who Am I culminates by bringing together participants’ family and friends, and each teen shares their own personal narrative.

We celebrate you, Kristen, and all the courageous teens sharing their stories. You all are helping BGCD in countless ways.

“‘It is all about trust. Trust that it is okay to fail, to feel vulnerable and to accept the applause when it happens. The project forced all of us out of our comfort zones and I had to be crystal clear that the work was respected and that the motivation was pure. Once the walls were down... the magic started.”’ - Kristen Daly
PROJECT B.I.N.D.

As part of the Boston Inclusion Network for Disabilities, we believe inclusion is more than placement, it’s being part of what everyone else is doing, being welcomed and embraced as a person – and a Club member – who belongs.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Project B.I.N.D. is BGCD’s award-winning inclusion initiative launched in 2010 to ensure that children of all abilities have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from high quality out-of-school time programs. Project B.I.N.D. is not a single program or activity; it is a core value that informs all of our programs, guides our staff and reaches out to under-served, at-risk youth in the community.

While we have always welcomed youth of all abilities, the establishment of Project B.I.N.D. formalized this commitment and brought on board a dedicated staff member.

COVID RESPONSE

The pandemic was exceptionally challenging for children with disabilities and their families. Remote learning and the loss of familiar routines left children confused and parents isolated from their support systems.

To help our members with disabilities and their parents, Club staff consistently reached out to Project B.I.N.D. families to assess their needs, and re-calibrated our programs to help ease the transition to a “new normal.”

BGCD became a life-line by reinforcing a sense of safety, well-being, continuity and connection, even while we were apart. A few examples include virtual dry land swim lessons with an adored swim instructor and Friday night dance parties.
The pathway for lasting impact and success begins at the earliest stages of a child’s life:

- Our nationally recognized Early Education & Care (EEC) serves infants, toddlers, preschool and K1
- Trained and knowledgeable staff encourage learning in an atmosphere of play
- Research-based curriculum aligns with Massachusetts standards and guidelines
- Extended day programming is offered year-round in Boston Public School KIDS Program classrooms
- Licensed school-age program offers families of children ages 5-12 a structured after-school program with increased supervision for an additional fee

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

The global pandemic hit many BGCD families hard. Routine and consistency are so important to a child’s development, and the early days of the pandemic were challenging for parents of young children.

BGCD’s EEC teachers immediately recognized this and found new ways to stay connected with families who needed us the most. Zoom story hours, Baby Shark sing-alongs, and coloring sessions became a life-line for children and parents. Teachers also connected families with resources, organized “drive-by” parades, distributed diapers, formula, books and art supplies so that our littles ones could remain connected to their teachers, even while apart.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

COVID RESPONSE

The programs are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
Healthy Lifestyles

Team sports such as basketball, floor hockey and indoor soccer

Individual fitness activities such as fencing, yoga, gymnastics and boxing

Aquatics programs open to all members of the community with swim team, swim lessons for children 4-18 and 1:1 swim lessons for children with disabilities

BGCD believes all children gain lifelong benefits from being active and healthy. We offer a variety of programs designed to help youth challenge themselves physically, feel a sense of pride, and develop leadership abilities.

Program Overview COVID Response

Keeping our members and their families safe and healthy has been, and will always be, a core pillar of BGCD’s work. When “Stay at Home” mandates became essential to slowing the spread of the coronavirus, BGCD closed its doors, but not its programs. The need for fitness, nutrition, mindfulness, and healthy choice making mattered now, more than ever. “Zoomba” became a thing, and yoga classes reached far more young people. Our friends at Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street Kitchen brought healthy cooking online, and High Intensity Interval Training became a stress-alleviator for members and parents.
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our Education staff encourage youth to develop strong study skills, set goals, improve their academic achievement, and grow to be lifelong learners.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Supportive environment to do homework, use computers, seek assistance, participate in literacy, and STEM-related classes
- Trained staff to help members develop communication, collaboration, organization and self-management skills
- Opportunities to explore personal interests that keep youth engaged through school and beyond
- Life-changing relationships with peers and caring adults

COVID RESPONSE

Overnight, our young people moved from their in-person classrooms to remote learning. Many members did not have Wi-Fi or laptops at home, and finding these learning tools overwhelmed many families in the early days of the pandemic. Club staff quickly compiled resources for families, including Comcast’s Internet Essentials, so members could attend school remotely. “Learning loss” was another concern, so staff pivoted again, to keep science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) at the forefront. A few examples of these activities include “Science Fun Facts,” “DYI Lava Lamps,” “Duck-Tape wallet making,” and online terrarium making classes.
CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

Our members become responsible, caring citizens by developing leadership skills in a supportive environment, with opportunities for planning, decision-making, and contributing to our Club and the community.

- Community service opportunities through Keystone and Torch Club leadership groups
- Broad exposure to theater, sporting events, art exhibits, leadership conferences, outdoor recreation beyond the Club facilities
- Supervised travel experiences that build confidence and independence, including Camp Northbound, Disney World, and East Coast College Tours
- Meaningful supportive relationships helping with youth with disabilities

PROGRAM OVERVIEW COVID RESPONSE

BGCD teens have always inspired Club staff, and the way each of our teen members navigated the events of 2020 humbled us and made us proud. The pandemic and George Floyd’s passing in May 2020 were defining moments in their young lives. BGCD is committed to giving young people the building blocks they need to navigate life after the Club. All of BGCD’s teen programming teaches members to be curious, form their opinions, use their voice to affect positive change and be heard.

During the pandemic, our goal was to find meaningful ways to connect with teens, so we launched “DOT Talks” in March. This popular program brought teen members together with community leaders and club alum for conversations about resiliency, perseverance, discipline, and balance. We are grateful to all of the community leaders, professional athletes, and the Wahlberg family for engaging in these meaningful discussions. Thank you to all who participated for sharing your experience, strength and wisdom with us.
BGCD knows the best defense against poverty is a steady paycheck. Increasing families’ incomes reduces children’s exposure to poverty and lowers the risk of developing negative behaviors throughout their lives. To combat multi-generational poverty and strengthen families, Ullian Institute and BGCD launched its LIFT Program in 2017.

Two essential components of LIFT’s success are 1.) Consistent, high-quality coaching for parents and 2.) SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) goal setting across five areas of development (family stability, well-being, finances, education/training, and career). Participants engage in the program for three years with the end-goal being upward economic mobility.

The pandemic changed the way BGCD engages LIFT families. We focused on “meeting them where they are” and helping parents grapple with challenging circumstances and recalibrating their goals. We found innovative ways to address emerging needs such as accessing healthcare and testing and budgeting during a crisis.

Continuity of services and a sense of connection became essential during COVID-19. We quickly realized LIFT parents needed a social network, have questions answered, express their concerns, and feel supported. BGCD started a Facebook Virtual Parent Support Group. This group met weekly, and activities included virtual journaling sessions and self-care activities.
SUMMER PROGRAMS

In the summer months, we offer a structured weekday program for children ages 5-12 that keeps them active and engaged, and combats summer learning loss. Members rotate through program areas that include:

• Arts and music
• Educational enrichment
• Swim programs
• Team sports and gym activities
• Individual fitness programs like yoga, fencing, golf and more
• Field trips to sporting events, theater performances, parks and city attractions

SAFE SUMMER STREETS

Our award-winning Safe Summer Streets Program has been a safe haven for teens during the summer months since 1990. The program runs daily from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., and provides teens with:

• Individual fitness activities and athletics
• Safe social recreation with peers and supportive adults
• Art and music programs
• College and career prep activities
• Volunteer service and leadership opportunities
• Nutritious meals and snacks
• A ride home when the Club closes

WE ARE DORCHESTER

During the summer of 2019, members flooded our 3 Clubhouses. They were excited for a fun-filled school break and various opportunities to learn new skills, make new friends and life-long memories.

IN THE SUMMER MONTHS, WE OFFER A STRUCTURED WEEKDAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AGES 5-12 THAT KEEPS THEM ACTIVE AND ENGAGED, AND COMBATS SUMMER LEARNING LOSS. MEMBERS ROTATE THROUGH PROGRAM AREAS THAT INCLUDE:

• ARTS AND MUSIC
• EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT
• SWIM PROGRAMS
• TEAM SPORTS AND GYM ACTIVITIES
• INDIVIDUAL FITNESS PROGRAMS LIKE YOGA, FENCING, GOLF AND MORE
• FIELD TRIPS TO SPORTING EVENTS, THEATER PERFORMANCES, PARKS AND CITY ATTRACTIONS

WE ARE GROWING.

Since our founding in 1974, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has grown to become the premier youth-serving organization in Dorchester, serving over 4,000 children in 3 Clubhouses with more than 200 programs, all for a membership fee of only $5.

WE ARE DIVERSE.

Our members, staff and Board reflect and celebrate the diversity of the community we serve. Families of all ethnicities bring together their cultures, their histories and their hopes to form one community where everyone has a place.

WE ARE INCLUSIVE.

All of our programs and activities are available to children of all abilities. Our members with disabilities have a safe, welcoming place to participate alongside every other youth in the Club, and together we all learn patience, flexibility and respect.

WE ARE COMPASSIONATE.

When our members or their families struggle, our staff responds with care, discretion, referrals, resources and support. Our members learn to listen to each other, and to treat others the way they want to be treated.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CITY.

Our members get to know their community and act as ambassadors for the Club. They attend sporting and theater events, they volunteer, they tour colleges and businesses, and they speak at events about their experiences as Club members, and their hopes for their future.

WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE POSITIVE.

In a world where something bad is on the news every night, something amazing is happening at the Club every day. Every child with a challenge is an opportunity, and we are passionate about making the most of it!

WE ARE CHANGING LIVES.

One child at a time. One family at a time. We are changing the future. #WeAreDorchester.
In March 2020 efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus required BGCD to innovate and remain connected with our members, friends and families who experienced losses due to the pandemic, and brought BGCD programs to virtual platforms and sustained the Club family’s spirit while everyone was apart. Financial support and in-kind donations provided food, diapers, formula, cleaning supplies and support services to families who experienced losses due to the pandemic, and brought BGCD programs to virtual platforms and sustained the family's spirit while everyone was apart.

For more information, please visit bgcd.org.

If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and inform the Development Office at (617) 288-7120.
2020 FISCAL YEAR – All Donors continued

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Massachusetts Port Authority

2020 FISCAL YEAR – All Donors continued

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2020 FISCAL YEAR – All Donors continued

All gifts were received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. We have made every effort to include all gifts. If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and inform the Development Office at (617) 288-7120.

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This list includes only donations made “In Honor” or “In Memory” of someone.
THANK YOU!

We couldn't do what we do for the community of Dorchester without the help of our donors and volunteers.
 OUR CLUBHOUSES

Colonel Daniel Marr Clubhouse
35 Deer Street
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 288-7120

Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center
1135 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 288-7120

Walter Denney Youth Center
Harbor Point Apartment Complex
270 Mount Vernon Street
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 822-3701

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