



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF KENOSHA**

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**2020  
Annual  
Report**







"At first I didn't know who I was, and then I was invited to come to the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha. Attending the Club regularly was the best decision I ever made. After a while, the Club staff asked me to volunteer as a junior staff and then later recommended that I also join the Summer Youth Employment Program. I learned employment skills which helped me get a permanent job at the Boys & Girls Club. Being a mentor gives me a wider perspective of how to deal with different situations. Through my leadership skills I developed at the Club, I am now the first ever student dean at Harborside Academy."

**Armon Harris, BGCK 2020 Youth of the Year**

## MISSION

To impact the most young people possible, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



With the help of an amazing, supportive community, 2020 was a year of uncertainty and adapting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha was constantly molding to meet the needs of its members and their families and we're proud of what was accomplished.

As I write this, I am a few weeks in to my new role as the Club's CEO. As a lifelong Kenosha resident, I have seen the growth of the Boys & Girls Club over the years and am blessed to have this opportunity to support the mission. The BGCK is fundamental to the community and I am so excited to work with our board, donors, staff and the community to continue impacting youth. Thank you to Jake McGhee for his service and dedication to the Club.

The challenges that existed before the pandemic remain and there are of course new issues as well, but our team is ready to respond by delivering high quality and life changing programs. Looking ahead, we are excited to explore new service opportunities, expanded offerings and new school sites for our members. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that give so generously to help kids and families in our community. We certainly know we could not make the impact we do without your support. We are ready and excited to move into 2021 with a renewed sense of urgency as we know that great futures start here!

**Tara Panasewicz**  
CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha





# WHO WE SERVE

## TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

7,964

## TOTAL MEMBERS

4,751

## AVG. DAILY ATTENDANCE

213

## SCHOLARSHIPS

\$63,000

Scholarship funds awarded in 2020

## CLUB MEALS

14,422

Meals served at the BGCK in 2020

## COMMUNITY MEALS

25,000

Free meals distributed during spring of 2020

## LONGEVITY

40%

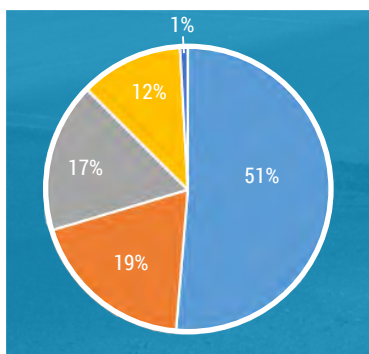
Of members have been members for 2+ years

## PROGRAMS

460

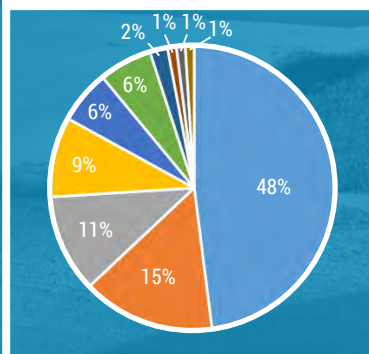
Youth participated in educational activities

## ETHNICITY



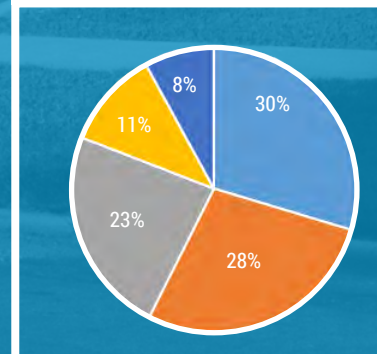
- 51% Caucasian
- 19% African American
- 17% Hispanic
- 12% Mixed Ethnicity
- 1% Asian

## REVENUES



- 48% Contributions
- 15% County
- 11% Programs
- 9% Rentals
- 6% Events
- 6% State Govt
- 2% School District
- 1% BGCA
- 1% Misc. Grants
- 1% City

## AGE BREAKDOWN



- 30% Age 10-12
- 28% Age 7-9
- 23% Age 13-16
- 11% Age 4-6
- 8% Age 18-21

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

- Throughout 2020, the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha was constantly molding to meet the needs of its members and their families given the uncertainty and despair surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On March 16th the BGCK abruptly shut its doors to comply with state and local authorities' public health emergency orders.
- Immediately the BGCK became a meal distribution site for Kenosha Unified School District's breakfast and lunch program, offering free meals to all local youth. While breakfast and lunch was covered by KUSD, dinners that normally would be available to members at the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha could no longer be served safely. Thus, a dinner campaign began.
- After a Facebook post asking for support to serve dinners was posted around noon on Saturday, March 14th, it was less than an hour before the first response. And after 48 hours of the initial ask, dinners had been covered for the next two weeks thanks to local restaurants, companies and individual support.
- Dinner distribution was well received, however the Club was hearing from social workers and school principals that families without transportation were still struggling with hunger. The BGCK sprang into action to launch dinner delivery. Local family style meals were delivered directly to the houses of families in need by KUSD social workers and staff.
- In total over 25,000 free meals were distributed between mid-March and mid-June.
- With substantial COVID-19 health precautions in place, the BGCK re-opened its doors on June 15th to youth and teens, allowing members the opportunity to connect with their peers and mentors, play and eat nutritious meals.
- When KUSD turned to virtual learning in the fall, the BGCK was able to host a virtual learning support site thanks in large part to Kenosha County and HARIBO of America. 78 youth attended the program where they got help logging in, ate lunch and were able to get help with school work as needed.



"We supported local restaurants, my staff and I got to check in on the kids and the families were so grateful for a warm, delicious meal. They also got a bag of toiletries and educational items. It feels so good to be able to do something for our small business community and our families."

**Heather Connolly, Principal of Frank Elementary School**



## THE IMPACT



Amoia Hunt, a phlebotomist and mother of 7 year old Club member, Jordan, praised the Club's virtual learning support site. Both Amoia and her husband who is in the military, were unable to work from home to help Jordan with online school. Had it not been for the BGCK, she would have had to drive Jordan to a family member's home in Illinois every day, which not only would have been a long commute but would have been costly in gas.





# TEEN CENTER

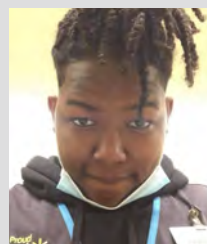
- During the 2019-2020 school year, Teen Center staff facilitated weekly groups that focused on gang prevention, money management, future goals, personal hygiene and college prep.
- Over 1,000 free bus passes were distributed to teens in 2020, assisting them in transportation to and from the Club.
- Through Career Launch programming, teen members developed resumes and prepared for interviews. Staff assisted 12+ teens in gaining part time employment at area businesses.
- In October, the Teen Center was awarded a grant to develop the Job Training For Future Young Employees (JTFYE) program, aimed at helping teens who choose to enter the workforce directly after high school.



# PREVENTION & OUTREACH

- Increasing family involvement is a huge goal of the BGCK's outreach efforts. Program participation from students' families has increased by 3% from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2019-2020 school year. Due to the greater concern during COVID-19, parents communicated with BGCK staff to ensure the students had as many resources as possible.
- Be Great: Graduate is in its 2nd year. This program, led by Wendy Johnson, supports 20 students with bettering their grades, behavior and truancy. The goal of the program is for all participants to graduate high school.
- Be Great: Graduate students all received a free BGCK membership. In 2020, the program hosted a weekly study group at the Club. Students were incented to work hard with various prizes.

## THE IMPACT



BGCK member, Hykeem, is enrolled in Be Great: Graduate, working hard towards high school graduation. He enjoys the program because he has the opportunity to get to know his peers, it provides structure and accountability, and he has access to resources and help.

**Participated in 4+ social activities each month**

**85%**

**Improved their GPA**

**84%**

**Improved school attendance**

**75%**

**Maintained or reduced their gang risk assessment score from intake to completion**

**80%**

# TROHA YOUTH CENTER, TWEEN CENTER & LAKEN FAMILY JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY EXTENSION



- Carthage College helped bring performing art programming to Club youth in the form of drama and dance classes taught by graduate students. During the summer 60 youth members worked with Carthage professors and students on lessons related to music, acting, dance, video and storytelling.
- Thanks to a partnership with Gateway Technical College, 97 youth attended an awesome wellness fair in February. Members got to experience different activities related to health, put on by GTC students studying dentistry, hair care, cosmetology, nursing and physical therapy.
- The youth and tween centers started a one-on-one reading program for those struggling to read at their grade level. With the help from BGCK full-time staff, board members and volunteers, select youth had the opportunity to read with an adult one on one for 20 minutes at a time to improve their reading skills.
- In early March, “Mad Science” came to the Club thanks to a grant from Kenosha Community Foundation to perform and conduct hands on science experiments with 138 members. Youth got to see cool experiments up close and participated in stations that featured slime, magnets, electricity and more.
- Thanks to Niagara Cares, Niagara Bottling’s philanthropic program, the BGCK debuted a new, state-of-the-art outdoor playground in September. The Niagara Imagination Station features three slides, a jungle gym, swings, monkey bars, a balance walk, a spinner, picnic tables with shade and more.

“I like to play kickball in the gym, carpet ball in the games room and I like to do fun things with the teachers. My favorite thing this year was the Christmas party!”

Wyatt, age 8, BGCK Youth Member



**538**

Unique youth members served

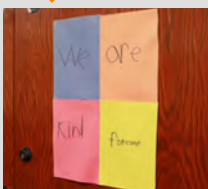
**169** ← Youth & Tween Centers  
Jefferson → **63**

Highest attended day

**67** ← Youth & Tween Centers  
Jefferson → **37**

Average daily attendance

## THE IMPACT



Volunteering in the Troha Youth Center has helped prepare Abby (UW-Whitewater intern, fall 2020) for her career in social work. She developed and improved de-escalation and conflict resolution skills.





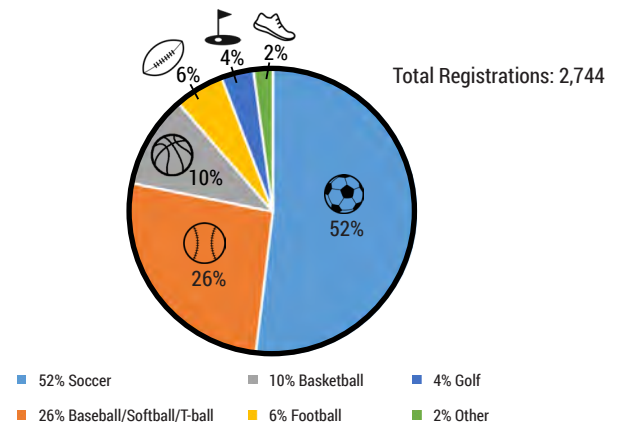
# BGC SPORTS

- In January of 2020, BGC Sports Indoor Soccer Session 2 presented by Kozak Orthodontics started off strong with 843 athletes participating, a 134 player increase compared to 2019.
- After the sudden halt of leagues and programs in the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19, BGC Sports was able to restart operations with the summer baseball, softball and t-ball seasons. All programs for the remainder of 2020 had new health procedures and guidelines in place so that leagues could run safely.
- Due to the pandemic, program attendance for the summer, fall and winter was down 21%, however three programs actually saw a rise in participation. The Dr. Aiello & Dr. Perri Youth Golf Class, the Junior Golf Outing and Summer Soccer Camps all saw increased enrollment.
- A new program for 4-6 year olds began called "Sporties for Shorties." Local high school and college athletes volunteered to teach 42 kids a new sport each week.
- The BGC Knights Tackle Football program had five teams participate in the SEYFA league. The 5th grade Knights went undefeated, while both 7th grade teams each only had one loss.

"I love playing sports at the Boys & Girls Club because I like making friends with other kids and doing something that is good for my body. It makes me feel healthy to play BGC Sports!"

**Sarah, age 7, BGC Sports athlete (soccer, softball, speed & agility)**

## SPORT PARTICIPATION



## THE IMPACT



While 2020 was a trying year, BGC Sports discovered some positives. An expanded office area to include an upstairs room allowed more space to social distance. The grassy lot behind the BGCK has been converted into a football field. Future Spring Flag Football programs can be held there, freeing up CYC Park for spring tournament rentals. New relationships were formed with renters who were unable to rent at previous locations. Lastly, staff meetings were held at outdoor cafes that lead to more staff bonding.

# SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

2020 marks the 12th successful year of the Summer Youth Employment Program, a partnership between the BGCK, Kenosha County, Kenosha Unified School District, Community Impact Programs and mentoring work sites. The program teaches at-risk teens the value of work and basic employability skills.

- Several health precautions were put in place in order to keep program participants and staff members safe given the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Employer work sites were made up of 5 government agencies, 3 non-profit agencies and 19 private companies.
- Youth Employment in the Arts students ages 14 and 15 made a beautiful mural featuring Kenosha landmarks for the Kenosha County Job Center. The program and project was led by KUSD art teachers.
- Youth that worked for Kenosha County Parks in the summer of 2020 painted picnic tables, weeded gardens, spread wood chips, assisted with storm debris removal, constructed a granite path, restored a sand volleyball court and more.



**106**

**Total youth served in 2020**

**27**

**Total work sites**

**88%**

**Program completion rate**

**\$103,927**

**Wages earned by youth in 2020**

**8**

**Youth obtained unsubsidized employment**

**92%**

**Percentage decrease of summertime juvenile arrests since the inception of the program**

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chad Navis

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Kathy Holland, Interim (December)

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Rade Dimitrijevic  
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Randy Eckern  
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Gary Hutchins  
Donna Jamieson  
Thomas Kline  
Glenn Madrigano Jr.  
Dr. Tammy McGuckin

Jeff Milkie  
Crystal Miller  
Monroe Mitchell III  
JP Moran  
Brandon Morris  
Tricia Nelson  
Felicia Pavlica  
Mike Pitts Jr.  
Julie Rittmiller  
David Ruppel  
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Peter Valeri  
Christian Venegas  
Mike Worcester  
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Ronald Stevens  
Dennis Troha  
Sandy White  
David Wilk